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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Concessions Said Made in Oslo on Security Issues

#### Peres, 'Arafat Make 'Significant Progress'

*TA2301062294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet again next Sunday [30 January] in Switzerland in a further attempt to break the deadlock over the implementation of Palestinian autonomy. There was no breakthrough after two rounds of talks over the weekend in Oslo, but significant progress was reportedly made on the questions of the border crossings and security arrangements in Gaza. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] Both Foreign Minister Peres and Yasir 'Arafat made significant concessions at the Oslo talks. According to Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic reporter Shlomo Raz, the PLO has now reportedly dropped its insistence that Palestinian policemen be present at the border crossings. In return, Israel will reportedly allow people crossing to enter directly to Jericho, and Israel will also allow the Palestinians to set up their own holiday resort on the Dead Sea. However, disagreements remain over the size of the autonomous Jericho area. Peres and 'Arafat also reached agreement on security arrangements for roads in the Gaza Strip leading to the Gush Qatif settlement bloc.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser Yo'el Singer and senior PLO official Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] will meet this week in an attempt to put into writing the points of agreement before Peres and 'Arafat meet again a week from today in Switzerland.

Speaking in Oslo last night, Peres said there is a chance that agreement can be reached in Switzerland on most of the points and there is a proper climate for such an agreement. 'Arafat told reporters that some bridges have been overcome, but more time is needed. He said if there is a will there is a way, and both sides have this will. Peres and 'Arafat held their second round of talks after attending the funeral of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who brokered last year's Oslo agreement. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the strain of the peace process had contributed to his death, and said a peace agreement would do justice to his memory. [end recording]

[Announcer] In all, Israeli and Palestinian representatives will be meeting this week at several locations in talks to further the peace process. The Yo'el Singer-Abu-'Ala' meetings Mark Weiss reported on, the Taba talks on autonomy for Gaza and Jericho resume in Taba tomorrow, and in Washington discussions will start in the framework of the bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab states. The U.S. Administration is at the same time reported to be working to set up a summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 January on page A1 carries an item by political correspondent Aluf Ben that reports Peres presented 'Arafat with a proposal to overcome the dispute over control of the border crossings. "Under the proposal, use would be made of advanced technology development in Israel to form 'an unseen presence' of Israeli security officers in the Palestinian area of the crossings. The plan, in which several military industries are participating, has been approved by security elements and received Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's OK Thursday in his meeting with Peres. The PLO demanded in the negotiations that the Palestinian residents of the self-government in Gaza and Jericho 'will not see Israelis' when they enter the crossings points, and agreed that Israel supervise the crossings from a distance through electronic means."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 22 January, in a report by Gil Sedan in Oslo, says that "at Peres' initiative, a $25-million international fund, the initial budget for funding the Palestinian self-government, was set up. The United States will contribute $10 million and the rest will be divided evenly between the Scandinavian countries and Japan."]

#### Committee To Meet in Taba 'Next Week'

*NC2401114694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1006 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] Taba, 24 Jan (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian-Israeli Security Affairs Committee will not meet in Taba this week. The committee, which is chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, will meet next week. The delay will allow the committee to take into account the outcome of the talks Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is holding in Israel with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

According to responsible Palestinian sources, the Israelis are showing some flexibility in handling the Palestinian requests. In return, the Palestinians are showing understanding of Israeli security concerns.

The sources say that 'Arafat and Peres agreed during their meeting in Oslo that the Palestinian flag will be hoisted on the buildings that will be set up on the crossing points between Jericho and Jordan and between Gaza and Egypt to administer travel procedures. An Israeli security official will monitor the flow of travelers from behind a smoked, one-way mirror. [passage omitted]

### Peres Believes Agreement With PLO 'Quite Close'

*TA2301073494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] We are told about progress but no breakthrough in the talks with the Palestinians. Is that correct?

[Peres] We are making progress all the time, the breakthrough in principle has already been made, now we have to make further progress.

[Gay] As we heard, you went into the details yesterday, so let us also go into them. For instance, the deployment of Palestinian policemen at the crossing points. Is it true that the PLO has agreed to yield on that?

[Peres] I do not want to go into details. We are negotiating and I think we are quite close to an agreement, but I prefer not to go into details at this stage.

[Gay] How close is quite close?

[Peres] If we receive reasonable answers from the other side, I think we will overcome the differences. In other words, things they said no to before, they are now reconsidering. We will give them time to review things and then see.

[Gay] If you do not want to go into details, then let us talk about the principle that previously they said no, and now they are saying perhaps, and tomorrow they might say no again, as has happened in the past.

[Peres] What has been signed is finalized, and we are now aspiring to sign a paper, which we will bring home, and on which we will consult with the prime minister. I do not think it pays to make haste in making statements instead of waiting a few more days and presenting things in a precise way. New ideas were raised and a breakthrough is in the offing, but until it is signed and entered in the protocols, a shadow hangs over the agreement itself.

[Gay] We heard that Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer will confer with Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] next week and that they will finalize everything in writing. Is that meant to prevent a situation in which one side can claim the following day that it was misinterpreted?

[Peres] Definitely. We want a paper signed by both sides. There is a genuine difficulty I do not want to dismiss. Except for the fact that both sides have internal problems, the real hardship is that it is an unprecedented agreement, it has nothing to base itself on and nobody to learn from. Therefore, any problem we come up against is not only a new problem but also sets a precedent. That is why we have to invest a great deal of what the Americans call creative effort to overcome the difficulties. I think we have succeeded in overcoming some of them.

[Gay] What about the Syrian track, can you tell us about any progress or an improved atmosphere on that track prior to tomorrow's Washington talks?

[Peres] No, not yet, but we will receive tomorrow initial indications in which direction things are moving. What is clear is that the United States is very, very interested in reaching an agreement, a comprehensive agreement, although for us a comprehensive agreement means with all the Arab states.

[Gay] Yes, but we are not signing the agreement with the United States, we are signing it with Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

[Peres] Absolutely, that is why we are negotiating with them. I am simply saying that the United States is very interested and is offering its good offices in order to reach that, although it is very careful not to appear to be a participant. In other words, it does not raise its own proposals and is more of a facilitator to permit the sides to make progress.

[Gay] In reference to the international fund you helped set up yesterday. What can you tell us about that?

[Peres] The issue is that the Palestinians do not have the seed money to set up an administration or a police force. Foreign states do not tend to hand out funds to such an entity or organization because they all have to answer to their parliaments. What I suggested is a structure that permits the Palestinians to receive seed money and start implementing their plan, their actions. I suggested that a group made up of four trustees, a sort of mutual fund, be set up headed by a UN representative and have an American, a Norwegian, and a Japanese member. Later, I spoke with all those involved. The Japanese will probably donate $7.5 million, the Norwegians will give $7.5 million, and the United States will donate $10 million. There will be a total of $25 million and the trustees will be the ones to decide on what to spend the money so that it will not be wasted on personal or political matters. That was done relatively quickly and it solved a complex problem at the initial stage. I suggested that it be called the Holst Fund, which was accepted.

[Gay] To conclude, can we hear your impression of Yasir 'Arafat, whom you met yesterday. You were recently heard expressing hesitation and doubts about his ability to come up with the goods or his desire to do so. What was your impression yesterday?

[Peres] I got the impression that like you said, he wants to provide the goods, in other words, to complete the agreement. In our talks, he was very businesslike and what is called low key [last two words in English]. The deliberations were definitely based on logic and not emotions.

## Sha'th Expects 'Breakthrough' in Negotiations

*JN2301181394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Security Committee meetings with Israel, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Do you expect a breakthrough in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in light of recent consultations between the sides?

[Sha'th] Yes, I do. If there is a breakthrough, it will be thanks to the most recent round of talks in Taba, which I had said would help us move forward on the security front. I believe that the meeting in Oslo between President 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres will be another contributing factor, along with our contacts here with President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, and there is yet another meeting between 'Arafat and Minister Peres planned for next Saturday [29 January] in Davos. These contacts and the talks set to resume next Tuesday in Taba between ourselves and General Shahaq and the Israeli delegation should help us overcome the obstacles holding up an agreement. God willing, we will arrive at an agreement in February and Israeli withdrawal will get underway and the Declaration of Principles will be implemented.

[Mu'addi] When will the talks resume and what are the items on the agenda?

[Sha'th] The talks about the transfer of civilian administration resume in Aba tomorrow, Monday. The points agreed are now being drafted, and we are close to agreement. Of course, the more intractable issues such as water, archaeology, and regional planning will have to wait a bit. However, God willing, we will also make progress on those fronts. The security committee is scheduled to resume work on Tuesday with both chief delegates' participation. I believe that in light of the headway made in Oslo, we should not rule out fresh progress on the area of the Jericho enclave and the crossings.

[Mu'addi] Is it fair to say that the crossings problem is now behind us?

[Sha'th] We are close to a solution. Let's temper our optimism with realism and reason.

[Mu'addi] Given recent developments, what were 'Arafat's instructions to the Palestinian delegation?

[Sha'th] We are in constant touch with President 'Arafat. We met this morning, and we are to meet this afternoon before he travels to Saudi Arabia. We are in constant touch. He was here three days ago and is being updated regularly. He is asking that we work overtime to conclude the agreement.

[Mu'addi] Do you think that by the end of the month all issues blocking the implementation of the Declaration of Principles will have been sorted out?

[Sha'th] It is hard for me to set an exact date, since that will be a matter for the political leaderships of both sides. I think we are on the road to a solution. It is extremely hard for me to be more specific.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sha'th, thank you so much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, Sa'id.

## Civilian Affairs Committee Resumes Talks in Taba

*NC2401100594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] Taba, 24 Jan (MENA)—In Taba this morning Palestinian and Israeli negotiators began a third week of talks in connection with the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The negotiations resumed at 1030 when the Civilian Affairs Committee stemming from the Gaza-Jericho Committee met under lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi on the Palestinian side and Gadi Zohar, the Israeli official in charge of the civil administration in the occupied West Bank.

Al-Tarifi told MENA that the committee will discuss issues related to the transfer of civilian authority from Israel to the Palestinians. He said that this week's negotiations will focus on communications—including radio, television, postal services, electricity—and the Palestinian authority's right to enact legislation and handle town planning, civil registration, and travel documents. He added that the issue of water will be discussed not this week but next week.

MENA learned that Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the radio and television corporation, and Engineer Amin 'Ulayyan have joined the Palestinian delegation negotiating the transfer of civilian authority because the setting up of a Palestinian radio and television station will be discussed.

The Palestinian negotiator stressed that there was progress during the past two weeks of negotiations on civilian issues when the two sides reached agreement on issuing identity cards and issues of residence, protected nature reserves, and public works. [passage omitted]

## Jordan's Chief Delegate Discusses Washington Talks

*JN2401113294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jan 94 pp 1, 21*

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpts] The heads of Arab and Israeli delegations to the bilateral peace talks are scheduled to meet in Washington today for consultations and coordination. [passage omitted]

In a telephone interview, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral negotiations, said these meetings are meant as consultation between the heads of the four delegations, in addition to the Israeli side, regarding the date and venue of the next round of negotiations.

Al-Tarawinah said that there will be a comprehensive assessment of the progress of negotiations on all tracks. In light of this assessment, the parties will examine the usefulness of holding another round of talks. They will also look at ways to reduce differences or obstacles that could obstruct the Arab-Israeli negotiations. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the topics to be discussed on the Jordanian-Israeli track in the next round, al-Tarawinah said: No doubt, there have been many political developments since the end of the last round of the bilateral talks, and specifically since the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel on 13 September 1993. A Jordanian-Israeli agenda was also signed, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the region. Add to this the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva and finally the Jordanian-U.S. summit in Washington.

Dr. al-Tarawinah added: Regarding the Jordanian-Israeli track, the items on the agenda have not been discussed since the signing of the agenda on 14 September 1993. This is because there has not been a round of talks since then.

The head of the Jordanian delegation said: I think that in the new round we will discuss the agenda items. This is in addition to the meetings of the working groups on water, the environment, energy, security, borders, refugees, among others. He added that there is now a new dimension, which is the Palestinian-Jordanian economic agreement signed this month in Amman. [passage omitted]

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### 'Abd-al-Majid Attends Agriculture Meeting in Syria

#### Comments on Arab Boycott

*NC2101162994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Damascus yesterday on a four-day visit to Syria during which he will attend a two-day meeting of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development that will begin tomorrow, Saturday.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that this visit will be a good opportunity to confer with Syrian officials. He emphasized that current important developments make such exchanges of views necessary.

'Abd-al-Majid said he met with U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown yesterday, Thursday, and discussed with him several issues connected with the peace process, regional economic cooperation, and the Arab boycott of Israel.

Asked if agreement was reached during his meeting with the U.S. commerce secretary to end this boycott, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid announced that the direct boycott will not be ended because the reasons for it still exist. He said he hoped these factors will soon disappear.

He added that what happened was that the U.S. secretary of commerce asked him to consider the possibility of terminating the indirect Arab boycott of Israel in view of its effect on a large number of U.S. companies which are being boycotted by the Arab countries because they deal with Israel.

#### Views Envoy's Mission in Iraq

*NC2301122294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the mission of his envoy Ambassador Mayhub Mayhub, director of the Arab League's Arab Department who arrived in Baghdad today, is to hold talks with Iraqi officials on a number of Arab issues.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who is currently in Damascus to attend the opening of the meetings of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, said that Iraq has accepted all the UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Gulf war. He emphasized the need for Iraq to implement all these resolutions for the international embargo on that country to be lifted and for Arab solidarity to be restored.

#### Interviewed on Mideast Market, Reconciliation

*NC2401093194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in Damascus, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to our program.

['Abd-al-Majid] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about the talks you held with various officials in Damascus?

['Abd-al-Majid] Actually, I came to Damascus to attend the annual session of the Arab agriculture ministers, which is sponsored by the Arab Agricultural Development Organization. During the meetings we looked into the agricultural strategy of the Arab World in light of developments in the region. In my opening speech, as well as in the talks I held, I emphasized the importance of peace in the region as well as of confronting the economic blocs that are being formed in other parts of the world. It is essential that the Arab World takes a clear position on these blocs, particularly following the signing of GATT and other economic agreements.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let us talk for a while about the Arab economic strategy that the agriculture ministers are discussing. What is the Arab vision of this strategy, particularly in view of the current regional and international developments?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab vision has several parts. The Arabs need to maintain their food and water security. The Arabs should also find a way to confront the economic blocs that have sprung up in other parts of the world, particularly following the signing of GATT, an agreement that will affect [trade in] agricultural crops.

This topic....[pauses] The timing of the current meeting in Damascus was good. GATT was signed in December. The official signing ceremony will take place in April and then the agreement will be ratified.

Among the topics discussed during the meeting was ending the subsidies to agricultural products and farmers. This topic was given much thought in many countries during the GATT talks and the earlier talks in Uruguay. The Arab ministers are focusing on these issues. We hope that, by the end of the meeting in Damascus, a fuller picture will emerge of the Arab agricultural strategy. Such a strategy is needed to protect the Arab food and water supply, for it represents a part of Arab national security

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let us have a look at the other challenges facing the Arab World, such as the issue of water.

['Abd-al-Majid] The issue of water, as I said, is one of the challenges preoccupying the Arab public in the entire region. Of course, this and other topics will be discussed again at the coming meeting of the Economic and Social Council, which will be held in Cairo in February, God willing. The Arab League Council will also review these topics during its regular session in March.

The timing of the meeting here was good, as well as the preparations. There is no doubt that the meeting and the discussions will help create a joint Arab position. This is all I have got to say on this subject.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you see the future of Arab economic cooperation, especially in light of what is being touted as the possible establishment of a Middle East [trade] area?

['Abd-al-Majid] I have commented before and in length on the matter of the Middle East market. First of all, we have to discuss it with each other and see where we stand before we begin talking about a Middle East market involving non-Arabs. But, for starters, we should not be afraid of the prospect of a Middle East market. We should get our act together and see where our interests lie. I think that nothing can be imposed on Arab countries. These countries are sovereign and will not accept anything that contradicts their regional and pan-Arab interests.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There is a question on the minds of all Arabs, private citizens as well as officials. What is happening on your initiative to achieve Arab reconciliation? How far has this initiative gone?

['Abd-al-Majid] Hopefully, it is still alive and well. The responses I have received so far have been limited. Actually, I have received only 13 responses from the heads of states. But I believe that there is a possibility for further consultations about it. In the end, we will have to agree that it is in our interest to clear the Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity, for this will strengthen the entire Arab World.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you see these efforts proceeding? Is there hope for genuine reconciliation among the Arab brothers?

['Abd-al-Majid] I see some factors leading us somewhat toward clearing the Arab atmosphere. What is needed is more efforts. I am confident that the Arab World can exert these efforts. Arab reconciliation should be based on frankness.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

['Abd-al-Majid] You are welcome.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat, Aides Express Optimism on Agreement

*TA2301120394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jan 94 p 2*

[Report by Nahum Barne'a in Oslo]

[Text] Relaxed and optimistic, Yasir 'Arafat yesterday spoke with two Israeli journalists covering Holst's funeral in Oslo.

"I hope the meetings with Peres will bring about a breakthrough in the negotiations," said the PLO chairman. Asked by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent whether he is close to a decision on signing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, 'Arafat responded: "The decision is not only mine. There is another side, too."

Asked for his assessment on the effects of Basil al-Asad's death on the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, 'Arafat answered: "I do not know. I personally lament the death of Basil. I knew him when he was still a boy, when al-Asad was a major in the Syrian Air Force. I deeply regret his death."

'Arafat was asked whether Syria is heading for a separate agreement. His answer: "Al-Asad took care to convene the Arab leaders prior to departing for Geneva in order to receive their blessing. This is the way to practice politics!"

'Arafat said there are still four issues under discussion between Israel and the PLO. 'Arafat's aides—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Akram Haniyah, and Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']—sounded a little more optimistic. Haniyah said the first meeting with Peres increased his optimism regarding the chances for an agreement. 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "God willing."

## 'Abbas Responds to Agreement's Critics

*PM1901162094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p6*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qulaybi] What is your answer to the opposition's criticism of the Oslo agreement?

['Abbas] We will not answer those who copy the ideas of others, speak for others, or express the wishes of "certain parties concerned," nor will we pay any attention to those who do not read things and would not understand if they did read them, and if they did understand, they would only understand what agrees with their preconceived positions and decisions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] The agreement only applies to the West Bank and Gaza and covers only one third of the Palestinian people. It speaks briefly and in a very few words about the need to solve the problem of the refugees.

['Abbas] The international terms of reference on which the Madrid, Washington, and Oslo negotiations were based are Resolutions 242 and 338. In 1988 the [Palestine] National Council [PNC] accepted commitment to these terms of reference as the basis. The Fes summit conference also committed itself to the international terms of reference and right of all states in the region to live in peace within secure borders. These two resolutions are what the negotiators uphold.

One article in Resolution 242 speaks of "a just solution to the refugee problem." In the past the Israelis tried to interpret the word "refugees" as covering the Jews who came from the Arab states to Israel. Its aim was to keep the resolution—which actually was about the Palestinian refugees—fluid.

The U.S. letter of assurances said that the refugee problem could be discussed in the multilateral as well as bilateral negotiations. That is why we raised it in the three multilateral rounds of negotiations in Ottawa, Oslo, and Tunis. [passage omitted]

So the refugee problem was discussed most extensively in the multilateral negotiations. As regards bilateral negotiations, since Resolution 242 was unequivocally and without any ambiguity confirmed as the term of reference and as it was confirmed that the refugee problem would be one of the main issues to be discussed in the final stage, which would be no later than two years after ratification of the agreement, that meant that the words covering that issue in the agreement, though few, were clear. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] The agreement seeks an end to the intifadah and could lead to inter-Palestinian conflict.

['Abbas] The intifadah broke out against the Israeli military occupation and escalated whenever Israeli repression, persecution, imprisonment, deportations, and curfews intensified. [passage omitted]

The intifadah got material, moral, and political support from abroad. It was possible to supply it with the means necessary for its continuation, through the PLO at the official level and the Palestinian masses who lived in the Gulf states. It also earned the sympathy of parties, peoples, and states throughout the world. [passage omitted]

The Gulf war, however, deprived the intifadah of all these resources, as 400,000 Palestinians who could support 1.5 million Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory left Kuwait. As a result, we have a million Palestinians living below the poverty line. The PLO's resources ran out and it stopped its subsidies to the various institutions, societies, and individuals including the families of the martyrs, the wounded, and the detainees. The international community, angry at our position during the Gulf war, turned its back on us. So the intifadah stood alone in the battlefield.

Anyone who asks about the question of ending the intifadah or the need for its continuation should think first and foremost about securing the factors that would ensure its continuation and about the people who are suffering from the occupation and poverty at the same time, and should ask himself, why did the masses come out in the streets to express happiness and rejoice at the agreement? Has it occurred to those calling for the continuation of the intifadah what it means to go six years without schools, universities, or work?

The intifadah broke out against the occupation. If there is a glimmer of hope that the occupation will end, why should the people not turn to starting a new phase in their life to build their future and the future of their children and of future generations? The intifadah was not an end in itself. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] The signing of the agreement was a recognition of Israel with no commitment to the creation of an independent Palestinian entity. In fact, it will lead to a feeble, subservient entity lacking in sovereignty. Perhaps the Gaza-Jericho option is in essence the end of the road.

['Abbas] On the question of recognizing Israel's legitimacy, I would like to say so much about this matter but there is no room for that here now, so I will try to be as brief as possible.

First of all, the recognition of Israel occurred at the 1988 19th session of the PNC, the highest Palestinian legislative authority. Therefore, the Oslo agreement represented nothing more than the start of practical implementation of that program, which was the culmination of many years of dialogue and many years of Palestinian struggle and many years of history and wars in the region and international conflicts linked to the region. [passage omitted]

The Arab world accepted the legitimacy of Israel's existence when it accepted Resolution 242 reinforced by Resolution 338, which gave Israel the right to exist within secure and recognized borders. Then came the Camp David agreement to create some kind of diplomatic relations between the biggest Arab state and Israel.

Then came the 1982 Fes summit resolution embracing a plan which provided for the recognition of Israel's right to exist. That summit gave Israel's existence full legitimacy in the name of the entire Arab nation.

Furthermore, the Arab states' acceptance of President Bush's 1991 initiative and the initiation of their negotiations with Israel at bilateral and multilateral levels, involving 16 states, confirmed that legitimacy before any Arab party concluded any agreement or treaty. Then there was the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the agenda or declaration of principles and that was followed by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

We do not claim that we signed an agreement of principles creating an independent Palestinian state, and there is no article that clearly says so. We must admit that we agreed on interim autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. In principle, the so-called Gaza-Jericho option does not mean that the Palestinian authority will be confined to that, because such an interpretation of the Declaration of Principles would be a considerable distortion of the truth and would indicate some political myopia. If we examine the agreement we would see that Article 4, for instance, stipulates that the two sides consider the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be a single territorial unit whose unity and security should be maintained throughout the transitional period. [passage omitted]

When discussing the issue of sovereignty we should take into consideration the nature of the negotiations and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It is a unique conflict and sovereignty has a special meaning. The sovereignty being discussed is a relative sovereignty of a special nature linked not so much to the principle of national rights of sovereignty as to the creation of a national entity that was not there before. The mechanism for the implementation of the agreement will lead to the progressive emergence and crystallization of the elements of sovereignty until they are fully achieved. [passage omitted]

The geographical jurisdiction of the Palestinian authority is clear and includes these occupied territories. The fact that Israel is trying to keep some territory is a matter of conflict. The texts are in our favor, and we have the two states which sponsored the agreement and the possibility of arbitration and so on, but we will not forfeit one inch of it.

[Al-Qulaybi] The agreement does not fulfill the Palestinian people's legitimate rights which were upheld by the international community. These rights have been the subject of bargaining in bilateral negotiations away from the UN authority and resolutions. The mutual recognition is neither complete, balanced, or just.

['Abbas] Perhaps the detailed meaning of the legitimate political rights was left to the negotiations, but that phrase did appear in more than one place. The introduction spoke of the "recognition of the two peoples' political and legitimate rights." The third paragraph of Article 3 of the Declaration of Principles agreement stipulates that "the elections will be an important preparatory transitional step toward the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and just demands."

As we are talking about a declaration of principles and not a detailed agreement, we believe that this issue was given due attention particularly as the agreement is fundamentally based on international legitimacy and its fulfillment. [passage omitted]

The fear of Israeli domination of the Arab economy that some people are talking about actually reflects a disgraceful sense of failure or inferiority on the part of the people who talk like that.

The Arabs have been talking about an Arab common market since the early sixties, about the same time Europe started talking about a European common market. Why has Europe now achieved economic union while the idea of an Arab common market remains just an idea in some people's minds? And finally, why is it that the volume of trade among 22 Arab states does not exceed 4 percent of these states' trade with the outside world? [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] Israel supports a confederation with Jordan, not an independent state, because an independent state would prevent the annexation of some West Bank and Gaza territory, would prevent control of the water resources, and would not accept the annexation of Jerusalem.

['Abbas] Israel seeks to annex parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and will try to control the water resources and maintain its annexation of Jerusalem regardless of whether the solution is going to be an independent or confederal state, but we must clarify a point which many people seem to find ambiguous, namely the word confederation. In international law there is only one definition of confederation. It is that "a confederation is a contractual agreement between two or more independent entities." This means that confederation and the independent state are not mutually exclusive. A confederation emanates from independent states. There is no other way. That is why we should not link Israel's wishes of annexation and control to the option that will ultimately materialize, namely confederation. Whatever the option, it is our duty to struggle until Resolution 242 is fully implemented so that there is full withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and so that the Palestinian entity is in control of all its resources, including water.

[Al-Qulaybi] There are risks in postponing the discussion of Jerusalem, the settlements, sovereignty, the borders, and the refugees to the final phase, that is five years.

['Abbas] It was clear from the beginning that a number of issues would be postponed until the final phase which was supposed to begin with or during the third year. That explains why representatives of Jerusalem and the diaspora were excluded from the Madrid and Washington negotiations. It was also clear that the first phase would be that of interim Palestinian autonomy and that there would be no room in it for discussion of sovereignty and independence, which would come after the implementation of the first phase.

However, to eliminate some confusion from people's minds we say that the transitional period will not exceed five years (Article 1 of the agreement). In other words it could be a little less, or much less than that. [passage omitted]

It is known that Jerusalem was annexed to Israel by a Knesset decision but the mere fact that it was put on the agenda for the final phase means, from the Israeli point of view, that it is a disputed issue and that the annexation decision was void. We must realize, however, that these matters require great efforts and much time to resolve. We need to struggle and be patient. There are risks. There have been no agreements in history without risks.

[Al-Qulaybi] The real significance of the Oslo agreement is that Israel wants the PLO to play the part of the Village Leagues in return for big financial promises and greater influence in return for some oral concession made deliberately ambiguous to obstruct the negotiations. There is a belief that the system of government in the occupied territory would neither be democratic nor elected and that [the government] would be appointed by the PLO because Israel does not want democracy there.

['Abbas] If we want to talk about abstract Israeli wishes in isolation from the objective circumstances then all that is being said is true because, to begin with, Israel was founded on Herzl's theory: "A land without people for people without a land." [passage omitted]

I have cited all these historical and real points to say that if the matter was left to Israel it would not have recognized anything and would not have accepted any solution. At one stage of the Palestinian national struggle it created the Village Leagues and then abandoned them when they failed to justify their existence and after they were rejected by the people. It is not right to draw a parallel between that and the Oslo agreement which speaks of the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, complete transfer of power with the exception of external security, executive, legislative, and judicial powers, general elections, and other things.

Why should we assume that the regime in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would not be democratic and that [the government] would not be elected but appointed by the PLO? And if Israel wanted it to be that way, why should the PLO accept that, when it has been insisting on the principle of elections, on which there was an appendix? And even if, hypothetically, the PLO accepted that, who could force the people to accept it? [passage omitted]

## Fatah Cautions Against 'Psychological Warfare'

*JN2301202794 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 94*

["Circular" entitled "Beware of Psychological Warfare," issued by the Fatah Central Committee and signed by Committee Secretary Abu-al-Lutf (Faruq Qaddumi); date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] To all brother members, friends, and the sons of our Palestinian people:

The Palestinian arena has suffered from many fabricated conflicts. Those who wish to create conflicts in the future are attempting to portray, in advance, the situation in the territory from which the Israeli enemy will withdraw.

The Mosad began to assassinate nationalist symbols and strugglers in the occupied territory just as the racist regime in South Africa assassinated struggler Chris Hani and created bloody riots in which hundreds of black citizens were killed.

The same experiment is being repeated in the Palestinian territory. The Israeli occupation could not fabricate bloody conflicts among the resistance factions, so it resorted to assassinations. Palestinian strugglers from all revolutionary factions—such as Fatah, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and other factions— were exposed to the killing and arrests we have seen in Gaza and the West Bank. The Israeli occupation wanted to create a state of chaos and insecurity on the eve of the promised Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area on 13 December. When these attempts failed, the Israeli occupation postponed the withdrawal and began to maliciously aggravate sensitivities and differences, (?embody) them, and exaggerate them. Some of us fell victims to this black media. International and hostile press contributed to the inflation of Palestinian events in order to portray the areas from which the enemy will withdraw as if they were moving toward conflagration.

This propaganda ended the joy felt by many people and created fear and concern in their hearts. This resulted in an internal situation that produced national, factional events and differences. Regrettably, the media and press highlighted these unjustified differences. People became more worried about security and stability and cautioned against the future. Many articles were published in newspapers and the Palestinian leadership was, for no reason, the target of criticism and defamation.

Popular awareness is necessary so that the masses will be ready for national reconciliation. It is also essential so that the leading cadres will be ready to undertake this mission through their deep understanding of the nature of the coming stage, which calls on them to be disciplined, calm, self-confident, and convinced in their future mission so that the masses will find security.

We must be aware that the Israeli occupation is the cause of our instability, starvation, and loss of our freedom of expression. The end of this occupation means the elimination of these diseases, which were caused by the occupation of our Palestinian territory for many years. Ending the occupation of a part of our land will certainly bring us back to normal and will prepare us to work seriously in building the free Palestinian society of the future.

Responsible behavior is a test for the awareness of the factions, cadres, and masses, which should not vie for authority, but should work for fostering cooperation between all parties for the sake of construction. Authority has not been attained yet, and the results of occupation are still before our eyes.

We ask every member of the police and security forces to behave as a loyal servant to the security of the masses. The police and security forces should maintain the masses' property and their freedom of expression.

The image in the masses' mind that the police and security forces are coming to impose a coercive system should be changed. The police and security forces have come to maintain human relations between the people and to provide the appropriate atmosphere so that the masses can resume their natural life from which they have been deprived for so long. They were deprived of holding parties, celebrations, meetings, and seminars. They were deprived of cooperating with various groups, and of establishing social, cultural, economic groups, and practicing all actions that the human being practices in a stable society.

This is the task of everyone affiliated with a movement, faction, organization, or political party, because democracy cannot be entrenched as an expression of human rights and freedom unless all Palestinian organizations act properly in dealing with one another first, and then in dealing with the masses in general. The factions should refrain from inciting differences or digging in the past, which might incite factional, family, or religious differences, so that every citizen will feel that the liberated homeland is his homeland, and that he is living in it freely, and is enjoying security and stability.

We stand before an experiment that the world is witnessing, and on the basis of which it will judge our good or bad performance and our administration of the liberated territories. The reaction of the friendly world and the donors will be good or bad in accordance with our administration and the national relations that we will weave between the citizens and the resistance factions, and their performance of their national duties on the ground.

There is no society that is free from social, political, or economic problems, but the developed societies give prominence to these problems and explain them in an objective manner. They try to resolve them through a collective effort after reaching the successful solutions for such problems. They keep rival groups away from fighting, confrontation, and inciting local conflicts to enable the national authority organs and the resistance factions carry out their duties comfortably, in a manner that keeps them away from confrontation with the masses and serve the masses' daily interests in an honest and sincere manner.

Our past experiences remained in our minds as Palestinians in spite of the signs of [word indistinct] that surfaced in the Palestinian society. We should return to our nature of national solidarity, collective action, and eagerness to serve the masses and offer all that they need in this transitional stage in which suspicion, doubt, and anxiety are abundant, and the enemy is sowing these fears in the whole Arab area.

The success of the Palestinian experiment is a success for the whole Arab area because the Palestine question is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and all that takes place within its framework is directly reflected on the Arab situation. Therefore, we should be a good example in behavior and performance when we build our future society.

From now, we recommend that voluntary teams of women be formed in every walk of life. Let us enable women to do considerable social and economic work; let us organize their efforts in social, economic, and cultural institutions; and let us open schools to train and enlighten them in order to qualify them and make them capable of work, sacrifice, and participation. If such groups had been formed in quarters and camps to carry out a comprehensive survey of people's needs, we would have been able to accelerate economic development.

We also should qualify youths, find job opportunities for them, and train them in all cultural, social, and economic fields. Let a school be opened every day for these youths so that our society can become full of qualified people capable of construction. Someone said that the voice of work is stronger than the roar of words. We have to take into account that the current transitional stage is witnessing some sort of mix of criticism, freedom of speech, and insult; of narrow sectarian prejudice and enlightened political affiliation; and of those who just raise national unity slogans and those who work to realize those slogans on the ground. We also notice another kind of mix in what is possible in this transitional period and what is impossible and of short-term and strategic goals. We have no magic wand to achieve what we want. Instead, we have to continue our struggle to make achievements gradually day after day and year after year.

We should not seek certain positions. Instead, we should work because work will lead us to suitable positions. We are not in a stage of sharing the booty, as some unexperienced people believe. We are now surveying and promoting our qualifications to carry out our missions and to continue our hard struggle, in which opinions on the ways to achieve national goals differ. The enemy, with its sins, is still penetrating our circles through the pains, the backwardness, and the social diseases it has left behind. We have to remove them through hard work and through our social and political awareness.

Let us refrain from punishing those who committed mistakes. Let us try to reform them and make them good citizens. We also should promote the spirit of cooperation among all the militant forces without exception, we should behave like instructors and educators, and we should forgive people of their mistakes by dealing with these mistakes in sound ways and far from grudge and hatred. The homeland is for every one, and every one has contributed to its liberation and has to contribute to its construction.

## Hamas' Nazzal on Gaza-Jericho, PLO Ties

*JN2101204394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1754 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Amman, by correspondent Sana' al-Imam in Damascus; from the "The Event" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nazzal] From the beginning, our strategy took into consideration our particular circumstances, as well as objective considerations. We did not build our strategy on others' positions. Therefore, there has not been any change to Hamas' strategy of keeping up the struggle and resistance to occupation.

[Al-Imam] How fair would it be to say that your opposition to the PLO leadership overrides your opposition to a political settlement?

[Nazzal] Our objection to the ongoing political process was not prompted by our opposition to the PLO. Our differences with the PLO and its leadership are not personal. Our differences are about the approach. We are against the political settlement, given that it is not the right option for our people and that it will lead to the liquidation of our Palestinian case.

[Al-Imam] How do you assess the recent alliance struck between Hamas and other Palestinian factions that do not share your negative view of the peace project and the principle of peace with Israel?

[Nazzal] The meeting points between the constituent factions of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces may be summed up as follows: We are opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord, which we will seek to topple with all possible means. Thus, we have transcended our political differences and concentrated on our common denominators.

[Al-Imam] Looking ahead, what do you plan to do next?

[Nazzal] For us, the Gaza-Jericho accord was stillborn, and carries the seeds of its demise. The agreement will not survive. We are counting on the political maturity of our Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic masses. Over time, they will discover that the PLO leadership has made unrealizable promises that will turn out to be a mirage which will not satisfy any thirst. Thirdly, [number as heard] we bet on the resistance option. Hamas, along with the rest of the decent and dedicated Palestinians, will carry on resistance to occupation and give it no security or stability. These are the bets for our cause's foreseeable future.

[Al-Imam] Brother Muhammad: In the event of a change in the region's political landscape, and a number of Arab countries invovled in the peace process concluding deals with Israel, how will Hamas react?

[Nazzal] We hate to reach the point where other Arab states will sign agreements with Israel. Assuming this did happen, Hamas would still stick to its strategic option of resistance to occupation and dealing it painful blows. This is our strategy and is not subject to change.

## PFLP's Habash Queried on Gaza-Jericho Accord

*JN2101210394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1736 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), by Salim Badawi; from the "The Event" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Badawi] We began our interview with Dr. Habash with a question about the nature of the PFLP's opposition to the peace process. Does he oppose the principle of peace, or just the proposed peace plans?

[Habash] In fact, we oppose the current peace plan which is proposed by the U.S. Administration. Instead, we propose a peaceful solution to the Palestine question based on full compliance with UN resolutions. There is a difference between the letter and spirit of UN resolutions and the U.S. plan proposed to settle the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. We want a peaceful solution to the conflict. Concerning our concept of this solution, we believe that it should pass through two stages; a stage at which this solution must be based on all UN resolutions, and at the same time, we want a strategic solution to this conflict. The strategic solution to the Palestine question is based on a democratic Palestine. This is the PFLP stand toward the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Badawi] What can you say about the self-rule plan and the agreement which was prepared in Oslo and signed in Washington?

[Habash] We strongly resist this agreement, because it does not meet the minimum level of Palestinian demands. I do not want to talk about this plan's violation of the [PLO] Charter. Neither do I want to talk about the fact that this plan does not touch on the phased solution which is based on the self-determination, the state, and repatriation. However, I want to say that this plan, the Gaza-Jericho agreement leaves all major issues without a solution. The repatriation issue is left without a solution, the settlements issue, the Jerusalem issue, and borders are all left without a solution. The Gaza-Jericho agreement does not provide a solution for any of these issues.

[Badawi] But, the text of the agreement leaves the definitive settlement of these points to future stages. Do you doubt the credibility of this agreement, or that it will be able to secure self-rule and later a state for the Palestinian people?

[Habash] When this agreement postpones all these basic points to a future stage, who will decide the solution to all these issues? We say that the solution will be on the basis of the balance of powers. How can Yasir 'Arafat solve the question of Jerusalem, the question of settlements, and borders when he loses his principal weapons? The question of borders now represents a major problem. What will 'Arafat's stand be when he faces the question of settlements, when he has to tackle the issue of Jerusalem, and when he also has to tackle the question of self-determination and all the other basic issues for which the Palestinian people have struggled?

[Badawi] Dr. Habash, is your participation in an expanded Palestinian front, which opposes the Oslo agreement, and which includes the Islamic movements, part of a short or long-term strategy ?

[Habash] At present, there is a U.S. imperialist onslaught to settle the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the U.S. version. All forces should pool their efforts to confront this onslaught. This requires a long time. With respect to the confrontation of this onslaught, we support the establishment of a front which may last for a long time and whose objective is to defeat this onslaught. Thus, our alliance may be considered a tactical one if viewed from this angle, and if one views it from a strategic angle, meaning it seeks to confront this onslaught and triumph over it, then this needs much time.

[Badawi] But all observers ask: What makes George Habash close to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad?

[Habash] Our agreement with Hamas now is not based on ideological principles, it has political basis. Whether in Palestine or in the Arab world, we agree politically on fighting against this onslaught which is embodied by the American solution to the Middle East issue. This is the basis of our agreement with Hamas and all the other political Islamic factions which confront this onslaught.

[Badawi] Dr. Habash, do you expect the recent Geneva summit between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad to have any effect on the opposition methods you adopt against the current settlement plan?

[Habash] I do not think so. This is because our struggle in the PFLP, and this also applies to Hamas, is based on struggle inside the occupied territories. Concerning this issue, Syria still strongly supports the intifadah. Therefore, I do not believe that we are facing a great division between the Alliance of Palestinian Forces and Syria. Moreover, we must consider that despite the Geneva summit, Syria continues to demand the implementation of all UN resolutions, not only with respect to the Golan, but also with respect to Lebanon and the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. This means that this issue will be a long drawn out one, especially since we must take into consideration the intransigent Israeli attitude. What was Israel's attitude in light of the summit and its results? Israel's answer was to hold a referendum. To me this looks like an attempt to escape from the process on the Syrian front.

[Badawi] But are you not worried about the return of Syria and Lebanon to the negotiating table following a freeze of several months in the bilateral talks? Doesn't this reinvolve you in political isolation?

[Habash] No. There were negotiations while we were in Syria and there has been an implicit alliance between us and Syria since the Madrid conference, taking into consideration that it is an indication of this process. [sentence as heard] Despite this, there has been a kind of alliance between us and Syria. [sentence as heard]

[Badawi] Dr. Habash, on what are you counting to tip the future equation in your favor in and outside the territories?

[Habash] We primarily depend on two basic factors: The first is an objective one; our understanding of the Zionist scheme. The Zionist scheme fully conflicts with the basic concepts of our Palestinian and Arab national rights. This is the first factor. The other factor on which we depend is our masses, our Palestinian and Arab masses. These masses will never accept the hegemony of the Zionist onslaught and its designs, and the attainment of its objectives in this manner. From this premise, we feel that no matter what the obstacles and the difficulties, and the Palestinian or Arab defeatist stands, our Palestinian and Arab masses will ultimately triumph over this scheme, the scheme of injustice and aggression that the Zionist authorities represent.

[Badawi] Dr. Habash, my last question: If the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho takes place in April, will George Habash go back to the occupied territories?

[Habash] I will return in one instance. I will return when I return with my people. It is inconceivable for me to isolate myself from my people. Thus, if an agreement takes place—and the issue of the withdrawal is far-fetched because there will be no withdrawal, only redeployment—even if this redeployment takes place, we will pursue our struggle on the basis of freedom and independence, on the basis of the national program, the program consisting of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

### Opposition Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Summit

*PM2001114694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p3*

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report from Damascus and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Amman: "Palestinian Opposition Organizations Express Satisfaction With Summit Results"]

[Text] The Palestinians in Damascus have expressed general satisfaction with the U.S.-Syrian summit results. They saw President Hafiz al-Asad's Geneva declaration of insistence on a comprehensive solution on all fronts and on the UN Security Council resolutions as significant and positive for the peace process.

Dawud al-Talhami, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and its official spokesman, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the emphasis on a comprehensive solution and rejection of partial and separate solutions was a positive sign particularly as such emphasis also came from the United States. He added that although there were no details and we still do not know what happened at the summit, for that will become clear in the future, what was emphatically stated by President Hafiz al-Asad calls for Palestinian satisfaction, particularly the insistence on a comprehensive solution, implementation of Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle. Al-Talhami also said that what was stated by President al-Asad and supported by U.S. President Bill Clinton was positive and represented the essence of the position we adopt and whose fulfillment we desire.

### DFLP Official Lauds Syrian Stance

*TA1901162094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 2*

[Text] Jerusalem—'Ali Abu-Hilal, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] political bureau and member of the Palestine National Council, has said that the Syrian-U.S. summit held in Geneva reflected the significant weight Syria carries in the region on all levels. A just and comprehensive peace, as well as security and stability, cannot be established in the region without taking into account Syria's interests and its ever-increasing important regional standing.

Abu-Hilal noted that the Syrian-U.S. summit affirmed that the United States needs to enhance and deepen its contacts with Syria and understand Syria's positions in the talks with Israel. The summit showed Syria's weight and its principled stance of adhering to the principle of a comprehensive and just solution in the region on all fronts on the basis of international legitimacy's resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as well as to the principle of land for peace as opposed to separate deals and bilateral solutions.

Abu-Hilal stressed that Syria's adherence to this stance is being welcomed and supported on the pan-Arab level, particularly by the Palestinians.

As for the results expected in the wake of this summit, Abu-Hilal expressed the belief that it will bring swift results. One of the immediate results of the summit is the revival of the peace process and the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties in Washington.

Abu-Hilal said that the Syrian president spelled out the concept of a just and comprehensive peace and that the ball is now in the Israeli court. Israel's behavior will either increase or reduce the chances of achieving a comprehensive and just peace in return for full withdrawal on all fronts.

Abu-Hilal ruled out the possibility of Syria striking out, either now or later, against the Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo accord, especially following the Syrian leadership's affirmation that this is a Palestinian concern and that it is legitimate for those factions to express their political views in a democratic way. Moreover, striking out against those factions is not in Syria's national and pan-Arab interests.

### Mosad Gives PLO Details of Jewish Terrorist Group

*NC1901193294 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 12 Jan 94 pp 1, 23*

[Report by Badra Bakhus al-Fighali from Paris]

[Text] According to well-informed Palestinian sources, last week the PLO received from the external branch of the Israeli intelligence agency (Mosad) a security report containing details about an extremist Jewish network that was involved in a series of terrorist operations against a number of Palestinian students and Arab mayors.

The report was sent to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's office in response to a PLO request. The PLO had called on the Israeli Government to investigate the assassination of several Palestinian figures. The assassinations are believed to have been carried out as part of a scheme to undermine the peace process.

The Mosad report notes that a number of Palestinians living in the occupied territories who are opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement are involved in the assassinations. The mastermind of the deadly scheme, however, is a Jewish group calling itself "David's Sword." The group, led by Jewish clerics loyal to [the slain] Rabbi Meir Kahane, is believed to have massed considerable resources through its links to the U.S. Jewish community.

The report says that Mosad agents have arrested most of the group's members. In their apartments the Mosad found details of planned operations, weapons, explosives, two-way radios, and bugging devices. One member, Rabbi Efrayim Tolidano, routinely smuggled weapons from the United States to Israel. He was arrested in Lod [Ben-Gurion] Airport as he arrived from Washington loaded with cash and weapons.

### 'Spy Network' Said Working for Mosad in Gaza

*PM1901145094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jan 94 p 1*

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Spy Network for Mosad in Gaza"]

[Text] Tunis—The PLO has managed to unravel the clues to recent assassination operations in the Gaza Strip which claimed the lives of three of its most prominent leaders in the strip: Lawyer Abu-Sha'ban, As'ad al-Saftawi, and Mahmud Kahil.

Investigations have revealed that a Palestinian spy network worked for the Israeli intelligence service Mosad in Gaza.

Palestinian security services inside discovered during their two-month investigations that this network received orders from Mosad to begin the assassination scheme. The security services managed to unravel the clues and enticed one of those implicated to go to Tunis at the end of last week.

This Palestinian is named as Ahmad Abu-'Awf, a resident of Khan Yunus. He is 24. He was enticed to go Tunis after visiting his brother in London.

Palestinian security services kept silent about this case to ensure that other members of the network would not escape. According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, a committee has been formed from the inside and outside to follow up this delicate case.

### Arms Dealers Interviewed on Sales in Gaza

*LD2301221294 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Report by correspondent Charles Enderin, including interviews with two unidentified arms dealers, and comment by Ahmad Hillis, a Fatah leader—recorded; arms dealers and Hillis speak in Arabic with superimposed French translation]

[Announcer] Israelis and Palestinians today announced a real breakthrough in the negotiations over the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, negotiations that have been bogged down for three months. An agreement is all the more urgent because tension is rising on the ground, in particular, in Gaza where there are more and more clashes between Palestinians against a background where firearms are proliferating. Our correspondent Charles Enderlin reports:

[Enderlin; against video dated December 1993 showing masked uniformed men parading and firing into the air] The phenomenon has reached unprecedented proportions in Gaza. Whereas only three months ago fighters scarcely dared show their weaponry, today there are hardly any parades or rallies by Palestinian organizations without a show of assault rifles.

A huge underground firearms market has come into being. The dealers sell to organizations like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or Fatah, but also to individuals.

[Arms dealer] [video shows him sitting in home, with a few rifles and pistols; clip captioned: Gaza, this morning] I only sell to those who are defending society, not to people who buy weapons for the pleasure of walking around with a gun.

[Enderlin] Where do you import the goods from?

[Arms dealer] The Kalashnikovs come from Egypt. All the rest from Israel, in particular the ammunition.

[Second arms dealer] [video shows him standing outside house, waving a pistol] A 9-mm pistol like this one costs 3,000 dollars, 18,000 francs. A Kalashnikov 36,000 francs; the highly prized American M-16 costs 66,000 francs. Before the agreement with Israel it was very hard and very dangerous to get hold of items like this. Today it is easy. There are a lot of goods, and the Israelis do not give a damn.

[Enderlin] The heads of the Fatah military wing are worried. They are afraid of accidents and inter-Palestinian clashes. They seize the weapons of individuals who do not belong to any movement.

Yesterday, several hundred students demonstrated outside the PLO headquarters against the sale of weapons, and against fratricidal clashes. Ahmad Hillis, one of the Fatah leaders, makes his accusations:

[Hillis] The Israeli authorities have completely stopped controlling weapons. But Gaza will not become a second Lebanon. If we have peace, things will settle down. Otherwise, all these weapons will be turned against Israel.

[Enderlin] Only the establishment of autonomy and the rapid deployment of the Palestinian police will prevent Gaza from sinking into anarchy.

## Algeria

### HCE Chairman Rallies Parties to Conference

*LD2201153294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] The emergency session of the National Council of War Veterans opened in the Aurassi Hotel in Algiers today with a speech delivered by the chairman of the Higher State Council [HCE] and secretary general of the National Organization of War Veterans.

In his address, 'Ali Kafi dealt with the current situation in the country and the national conference scheduled for next Tuesday and Wednesday [25, 26 January]. Over to you, Mahfud.

[Mahfud] 'Ali Kafi said that the national conference was nothing but the result of great efforts that have been made since 1992 and thus the HCE had the duty to open the doors for a meeting with all the parties in the dialogue in order to consult in depth about the crisis, so that strong foundations can be laid for the Algerian state.

'Ali Kafi added that the HCE was keen to preserve the dialogue and its aims were to sum up the views of the parties in the dialogue within a draft formula for the national platform, which permits the achievement of a national consensus, i.e. the evolving national proposal.

The HCE chairman and secretary general of the National Organization of War Veterans did not hide the fact that some parties engaged in one-upmanship and maneuvering during the increasing events experienced by the country. He also wondered: At the expense of whom is this behavior taking place?

He said that history would not have mercy on wavering people and those who maneuver and sometimes conspire against the Algerian nation. In this context, 'Ali Kafi called on parties to go to the conference and on everyone to work to make it successful by giving new hope to the Algerian people through a serious dialogue and concessions by all parties and to stand as one against whoever wants to destroy Algeria.

He said in particular:

[Begin Kafi recording] We say to all parties on the eve of this conference: Enough messing about, let us all go to the conference with everyone working to make it successful, to give new hope to the people who are looking at us and suffering. We must make this conference successful and we must give hope in order to restore the trust between the citizen and his party, and the citizen and his state, so that the political and social life of this country can return to normal. [end recording]

### War Veterans Urge Participation

*LD2301225894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] After two days of deliberations, the emergency session of the National Organization of War Veterans was concluded with a final statement. A report by Rafiq ech-Cheikh sums up the statement:

[Ech-Cheikh] The statement by the council called for the crisis to be overcome and participation in putting an end to the bloodshed. The council called on all parties, national figures, and social organizations to put an end to the violence. It believes that the time has come to look forward to the future and to continue the message of peace.

The statement also expressed its satisfaction with the speech by the national defense minister. It shared his view that participation in overcoming the crisis is a national issue. The statement also referred to the dialogue and to the need to persuade everyone to strengthen it.

[Begin unidentified person recording] The National Council supports the position of the national secretariat that was adopted within the framework of its participation in all the stages of national dialogue, and it urges it to continue and intensify its contacts with the various parties which are hesitant, and with the rejectionists, and to persuade them to reexamine their position on participating in the national dialogue for the sake of serving the higher interests of the country. [end recording]

### Several Parties To Participate

*LD2401024294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] Less than 36 hours before the convening of the national conference, a number of political parties that have weight in the political arena have announced that they would boycott the conference. Meanwhile some parties, mass and vocational organizations, have announced that they would participate. Others will remain in a state of anticipation and waiting until Monday morning before deciding on their final stance regarding participation, including the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, whose leader Abdallah Djaballah said on 23 January that the official decision would be announced 24 January. [passage omitted]

Among the parties that have declared their intention to participate are the National Democratic Socialist Party, which yesterday called for unity to ensure the success of the national conference and confirmed its intention to participate in it. [passage omitted]

The Algerian Party for Justice and Progress yesterday confirmed its intention to participate in the national conference and called on all the political parties to ensure the success of the national consensus conference.

At the end of its emergency session, the national council of the national organization of war veterans announced the organization's intention to participate in the national conference. [passage omitted]

### Three Parties Plan Boycott

*LD2201230694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] The National Liberation Front is the third party so far to announce its boycott of the national conference; the Socialist Forces Front was the first party to announce its boycott which was followed by the Workers Party [WP], which is led by Mrs. Louisa Hannoun, whose Central Committee has decided, following an emergency meeting held during the last two days, to boycott the national conference. In a statement received today by the Algerian Press Service, Mrs. Louisa Hannoun, WP's leader, pointed out that her party refuses to take part in the conference because the state of emergency still exists, political prisoners continue to be detained, and democratic freedoms continue to be absent.

### Rally for Culture, Democracy To Boycott

*LD2301204294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] We heard a short while ago that the leadership of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] announced that the party will not take part in the national conference [scheduled to take place on 25 January].

However, the RCD has pointed out that the reason behind this decision was that the adopted platform on the transitional period to be discussed by the national conference contains a retraction from the one proposed by the Higher State Council.

### Nahnah Wants FIS in Islamic Republican Rally

*LD2001202194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] After the call of Algerian scholars and preachers for a meeting this Thursday for a conference entitled Reconciliation is Good, a large crowd complied with the call and came to Harcha Hall in Algiers. In this meeting, the Islamic Republican Rally [Tajammu' Islami Jumhuri] was set up. [passage omitted].

[Begin Cheikh Mahfouz Nahnah, chairman of the Islamic Society Movement—HAMAS—recording] It is the Islamic Republican Rally and its acronym is TAJ [crown]. We want to have under this TAJ scholars, preachers, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], regardless of whether it was dissolved or not, the al-Nahdah, the Umma [Party], and all the patriotic people who have integrity and all the men of Algeria who want to form a bulwark against the factors of fragmentation. [end recording]

### Scholars Group Denies TAJ Links

*LD2201154694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Two days after its meeting in Harcha Hall [Algiers], the Conference of Scholars issued a clarifying statement signed by figures from the provisional body including Mahfouz Nahnah and Boujerra Soltani.

The clarification concerns the address of Cheikh Mahfouz Nahnah in which he announced his intention to set up the Islamic Republican Rally, [TAJ] [crown].

The clarifying statement said that there was no link between the Conference of Scholars and its provisional body with what is called TAJ or with any other organization. The statement added that the body, which the Conference of Scholars intends to set up, has not yet been announced and is under study.

The Conference of Scholars is a body that conforms to Islamic law and is independent from all parties, organizations, and official quarters. The statement also said that the aim of this body is to enlighten public opinion with the view of Islamic jurisdiction on the major issues of the nation in cooperation with experts, scholars, and preachers, in order to unite the word of the nation.

## Egypt

### PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo on Visit

*NC2301071894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo early this morning on a short visit to Egypt.

'Arafat said in an arrival statement that he will brief President Husni Mubarak on the results of his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo.

'Arafat emphasized the importance of persistence to reach an agreement with Israel for the meticulous implementation of the Declaration of Principles, which was signed in Washington on 13 September.

He said that there are many obstacles that have prevented the implementation of the agreement until now. We expect the Palestinian-Israeli talks to continue to overcome the obstacles, he added. 'Arafat said that he is hoping that President Mubarak will make efforts to remove these obstacles.

He noted that he will pay a visit to Saudi Arabia today to perform a mini-pilgrimage and meet with Saudi officials.

### Meets With Mubarak

*NC2301073994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat held a bilateral meeting at the presidential headquarters this morning. They reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process in light of the talks recently held on the Palestinian track.

After 30 minutes of private talks, members of the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations joined the meeting. The Egyptian delegation included Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the Presidential Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The Palestinian delegation included Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department; Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, president 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho talks; Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of Palestine in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo.

### Information Minister on Talks

*NC2301090694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat continued their talks over breakfast this morning.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the talks between the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations lasted 90 minutes. He said that they discussed the results of the talks held in Oslo yesterday between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and future steps in the Middle East peace process.

### Al-Baz, PLO's Sha'th on Talks

*NC2301172294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that President Husni Mubarak and President 'Arafat today reviewed the PLO-Israeli negotiations in Oslo, the progress made in the Taba talks, and ways to achieve further progress on a formula to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Commenting on the Palestinian-Israeli talks, al-Baz said obviously the climate in which the talks are conducted has improved and become positive and that agreement between the two sides is likely in the next few weeks.

For his part, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian side in the Taba talks, said after his meeting today with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz that important talks to overcome obstacles delaying an agreement on Gaza and Jericho, especially differences on the crossings and Jericho, were held after President 'Arafat's visit to Oslo and his meeting with the Israeli foreign minister.

Sha'th added that President 'Arafat briefed President Mubarak on developments in Oslo and discussed future steps with him. Sha'th said that President Mubarak invited the Palestinian delegation to a working breakfast with President 'Arafat. Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat then asked the Palestinian delegation to meet with 'Amr Musa and Dr. al-Baz to continue discussion of a plan for a joint move to resolve the problems.

Sha'th affirmed that Egypt is exerting efforts, as it has been since the start of the negotiations, to resolve outstanding problems.

The head of the Palestinian side on the Gaza-Jericho Committee said that the latest talks in Taba saw a serious, objective attempt to break the deadlock. He added: We submitted a paper in Taba that was the subject of discussion in Oslo, and thus, the attempt to break the deadlock began in Taba and continued in Oslo and then in Cairo.

Sha'th said he will return to Taba after tomorrow, Tuesday, to resume negotiations with General Shahaq, who will be briefed by then on Shim'on Peres' view of the talks that were held with 'Arafat in Oslo. He added that talks on the civilian authority will be resumed in Taba tomorrow.

He said that President 'Arafat will meet Shim'on Peres in Davos, Switzerland, on Sunday [30 January] and expressed his belief that the Davos meeting will help lead to an agreement soon. Sha'th added that no time has yet been fixed for a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin.

### Meets With Musa

*NC2301095594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting today with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at al-Andalus Palace where 'Arafat is staying. The two discussed the peace process in the Middle East, particularly the Gaza-Jericho talks.

'Arafat then left Cairo for Saudi Arabia.

### Musa Comments on Meeting

*NC2301174394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] The Palestinian president has held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Members of the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations attended the meeting.

Musa said after the talks that Egypt is working to advance the peace process on the various Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian tracks. He added that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi will arrive in Cairo tomorrow and that Egypt will hold active contacts with the parties concerned to boost the peace process.

He added that progress is expected on the Palestinian-Israeli track in the next few days.

### Leaves for Damascus

*NC2301111694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with a Palestinian delegation including Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho talks; Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO's Economic Department; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Ambassador Kamal stated that 'Arafat has left Cairo for Damascus to offer his condolences to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his son. 'Arafat will return to Cairo this evening to leave later for Jeddah.

### To Return to Cairo

*NC2401121394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday. This will be his third visit to Egypt in less than a week, Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, told MENA.

Kamal said that 'Arafat will meet President Husni Mubarak to discuss the latest developments concerning the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles as well as ways to stimulate the Gaza-Jericho talks.

According to Kamal, 'Arafat's talks in Cairo will also deal with the outcome of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel. Musa is holding talks with senior Israeli officials in an attempt to bypass the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. [passage omitted]

## Mubarak Sends Condolence Cable to Syria's al-Asad

*NC2101195594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of condolences to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad upon the death of his son Staff Major Basil al-Asad, who passed away today. The following is the text of the cable:

Dear brother Your Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic:

With deep sorrow and extreme grief I have received the news of the death of your son [words indistinct]. While sympathizing with you over this tragic incident, I pray God Almighty to have mercy on the dear deceased, may he rest in Paradise, and grant you and all the members of your family patience and consolation. From God we came and to Him we return.

### Leaves for Damascus To Attend Funeral

*NC2201090394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Syria this morning to offer his condolences to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of his eldest son, who was killed in a tragic accident yesterday.

Mubarak will take part in the funeral of the deceased in his hometown of al-Qardahah on the Syrian coast.

The president is being accompanied by Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

### Returns From Syria

*NC2201191894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak returned home this evening after taking part in the funeral of Staff Major Basil al-Asad, son of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

## Mubarak Receives Call From Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

*NC2301125494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, during which they discussed the developments in Middle East issues and the Libyan-Western crisis.

## 'Sources' on Minister's Visit to Libya

*JN2301130894 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 20 Jan 94 pp 1, 30*

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I—Informed Egyptian sources have affirmed that Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's recent mission to Libya was to inform Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that Cairo apologizes that it cannot welcome him for talks with President Husni Mubarak before it is confirmed that Libya has nothing to do with the disappearance of

Libyan opposition figure Masnur al-Kikhya, who disappeared in Cairo in unclear circumstances.

Last week, al-Qadhdhafi again asked to visit Cairo or al-Sallum to remove the misunderstanding between his country and Egypt because of the al-Khikya incident.

In his message, al-Qadhdhafi renewed his offer to mediate between Egypt and Sudan and to host an Egyptian-Sudanese summit in Tripoli.

The Egyptian information minister told him that the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers are holding contacts to resolve controversial issues between the two countries, and that any future summit depends on the success of the expected meeting between the two foreign ministers.

Safwat al-Sharif also informed Libyan officials that the Egyptian Government categorically refuses to deport Libyan opposition activists in Cairo because they have not violated the terms of political asylum granted to them. Libya had proposed that the opposition activists be deported from Cairo to avoid any tension their presence might cause to Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Egypt last week refused to welcome the senior Libyan official, al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, who requested to visit Cairo during his recent presence in Tunis.

### Foreign Minister Musa Departs for Israel

*NC2401065094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0634 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Israel today for a brief visit that will last several hours during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Musa will discuss with Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ways of boosting the peace process and overcoming the problems hindering the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

### Wounded 'Terrorist' Names Leader of Organization

*NC2101183794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1758 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—The Higher State Security prosecutor today questioned wounded terrorist Muhammad Ahmad Farhan, who is currently under guard at the al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital after taking part in the al-Ma'sarah incident on Wednesday.

The terrorist confessed that his fugitive colleague Tharwat Hajjaj is the leader of their organization, which is made up of 12 persons. It was Hajjaj who planned for him and his terrorist colleague Sami Isma'il Salih the attacks on the Majidah and al-Marwah movie theaters, the attack on a tourist bus in Misr al-Qadimah, and the assassination of police Brigadier General Ahmad Sha-'lan, he added.

The terrorist confessed that his colleague Hajjaj had been present with them in the apartment and taken part in throwing bombs at security troops, then he took his wife and three children and fled. He pointed out that his colleague Sami Isma'il Salih had been responsible for conveying instructions from Afghanistan to the defendants as well as recruiting new and young members.

Wounded terrorist Farhan added that he had joined the organization five years ago; that he is a follower of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman; and that he holds the belief that this society and regime are blasphemous. He noted that four members of Islamic groups had been frequenting the apartment in al-Ma'sarah to help prepare the bombs to be used in the operations. He confessed that he had taken part in the Zinhum incident, which was intended to assassinate some figures, and that he had committed 25 terrorist acts.

The prosecutor ordered the speedy arrest of defendant Tharwat Hajjaj as well as the four other defendants who frequented the al-Ma'sarah apartment.

#### Second Detainee Confesses

*NC2301072494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Suspect Sami Salih, who was arrested in connection with the al-Ma'sarah incident Wednesday, has confessed that he is a member of a terrorist organization consisting of about 15 people and led by terrorist Tharwat Hajjaj.

The suspect told the Higher State Security Prosecution today that he conveyed instructions from some leading elements in Afghanistan to his colleagues.

He said he took part in the attack against the Majidah and al-Marwah movie houses in Hulwan, the attack on a tourist bus in Misr al-Qadimah, and a number of other terrorist acts.

Salih said he and others who frequented the apartments they rented in al-Ma'sarah made bombs and explosives to use in terrorist attacks.

He confessed that before his arrest in al-Ma'sarah Wednesday he and colleague terrorists Muhammad Ahmad Farhan and Tharwat Hajjaj threw bombs at security forces. Hajjaj managed to flee.

### Police Arrest 200 Suspected Criminals in Cairo

*NC2301095894 Cairo MENA in English 0838 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, Jan 23 (MENA)—Different police units this morning encircled and combed different randomly built areas in east of Cairo within the context of a new strategy drawn up by the Interior Ministry to uproot all that could compromise the stability and security, Major General Mahmud Wadi, head of the General Police Investigation Department, said.

Some 200 suspects involved in criminal and political wrongdoings were arrested during these campaigns.

It was discovered that two among them had received death sentences while in absentia.

### Sidqi Addresses Parliament on Corruption

*NC2301185994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi asserted that the government has not and will not keep silent about any incident of corruption, no matter who the perpetrator.

Addressing a People's Assembly session held today to debate the report of the committee tasked with replying to the government policy statement, Sidqi said every report on corruption or deviations from any source, even anonymous ones, is passed on for investigation with the knowledge of the authorities concerned.

He added that people must not be accused without evidence or according to mere reports because this is regarded as intellectual terrorism. Referring to newspaper reports on corruption cases, he said if such corruption happened in any society, such a society would be barbaric.

Speaking about corruption, Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, opposition leader in the People's Assembly, said he did not mean by his speech to accuse anyone and that he knows that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi is the one who ordered an investigation on Madinat al-Nasr's multimillionaire. He added that he knows the government, including not only the council of ministers but also the administration agency, is opposed to such acts. I do not mean to stand up against anyone or accuse anyone without evidence, he remarked.

Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and consultative council affairs, said corruption is not common practice, and that the prime minister has affirmed that neither corruption nor deviations will be protected and all such cases will be invesitgated. [passage omitted]

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses General People's Congress

*LD2301000794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1009 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the opening session of the General People's Congress in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. First of all, good morning to all of you. On the basis of an invitation from the General People's Congress [GPC] secretariat, I have come to attend this opening session. However, my fear is that foreign journalists and some observers might think that the GPC is a parliament and that I am a president. They are used to the traditional protocol whereby the head of state chairs the opening session of parliament. [passage omitted]

Regrettably, there are those who purposely practice blackouts on the people's authority and the people's direct democracy as part of the war against small peoples' aspirations and their attempts to liberate themselves, and as a way of belittling peoples by insisting that only big powers can impose their views, and that anything other than that is dictatorship. There are some hirelings who are paid to write and talk with a view to smearing people's authority. [passage omitted]

Other countries should take this experiment from us and benefit from it by learning from the Libyan people. Instead, they ridicule us from their arrogant, imperialist, and disdainful stands. Normally, they should encourage a small people seeking liberation. On the contrary, they are hostile to the Libyan people and deride their experiment, so much so that they do not talk about the people's congresses.

You have journalists here. Wait and see what they will write. They will not refer to the people's congresses and the people's authority. First, they will say the Libyan parliament. Then, some will say people's committees, and this is very deceitful. [passage omitted]

We are exposing the rancor and ill intentions of the Western colonialist powers and their lackeys, the hireling newspapers and agent rulers. We just want to expose them so that the people will read these newspapers and listen to the radios and laugh at them—the Voice of America, for example, when it says al-Qadhdhafi the dictator. This is a great country, supposed to be respectable, and peoples are expected to listen to its radio. When a Libyan listens to the Voice of America he falls on his back laughing when he hears it talk about al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan dictator.

Thank God, this is a privilege and a blessing enjoyed by us Libyans in this country—love and brotherhood, and this is the unbeatable force with which we face up to the enemies. They have now realized that for Libya to be defeated, several million people, four or five million Libyans must first be defeated, one by one. But in other countries, if they topple a president then that is it, perhaps the people... [pauses] or they could incite a people against a president, or cause the defeat of a party in elections, forge elections and bring in another party against it, involve people in the farce of pluralism, bring economic pressure to bear against them, and threaten them militarily so as to cause the fall of a ruler, a government, or a party. [passage omitted] This would not exist in Libya where there is no foundation for it, because in Libya there is neither party, nor sect, nor ruler, nor government.

These facts give strength to the Libyan side. They give us determination and self-confidence that we will win in any confrontation, and they undermine the will of the enemies. [passage omitted] We are determined to enter into a confrontation and we are 100 percent confident in victory in the end, no matter how long the battle may be, and it should be long. [applause] [passage omitted] We would have thought, after the insignificant Reagan, that the American administration—the current republic or democracy—we, and all reasonable people, would have thought that, had there been a conscience in this world, America would apologize to the Libyan people and to the families of the innocent victims—children and women in Benghazi and Tripoli—that it would give compensation to those who accept it, and be sorry for all its life toward the Libyans and mankind for having committed a horrible barbaric massacre against children in 1986. On the contrary, here they are, forgetting all this and pursuing us again, threatening us, laying siege to us, and seeking more human victims. This means that conscience is dead. This is a dangerous moral decline in the world and in big powers. [passage omitted]

They are holding us responsible for Lockerbie—the Pan-Am crash—as if our sons who died in 1986 were mice, and your sons are human beings. What is our link with an airplane that crashed in the North Pole? Even if we did this, they should still be ashamed and keep quiet. They should say: we killed the Libyans' sons in their sleep. It was a mistake. Reagan was crazy and insignificant. He did a great deal of harm to the American reputation in the world. He committed a horrible crime that made America speechless and very embarrassed. Let us turn a blind eye to Lockerbie even if the Libyans are behind it. Despite the fact that we did not do it, they are still after us. They are holding us responsible no matter what. [passage omitted]

The UN Security Council asked Libya to cooperate with a French investigation and Libya expressed its readiness to cooperate with the French investigation and informed France. France refused the investigation out of solidarity and linked the UTA issue to the Lockerbie question. What is the link between UTA in Niger and Pan-Am at Lockerbie?

France does not want a solution and took a stance which contradicts that of the UN Security Council. If there were a real UN Security Council which was not under Western hegemony, it would meet and pass a resolution against France, declare Libya not guilty, and drop this aspect from the resolutions and the issue, considering that Libya has fulfilled its commitments toward France and it is the latter that refused. After that the council would have to condemn France. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Dr. Swire, the chairman of the Association of the Lockerbie Airliner Victims, made a proposal and said that The Hague was an approriate place for the trial, and should the English want to hold this trial, let them move to The Hague. This is the chairman of the Lockerbie victims association who said this.

They are telling the world: We, the U.S. and UK Governments, are under pressure from the Lockerbie victims association, at a time when the chairman of the Lockerbie victims association is saying before the world: I am not obstinately attached to a trial in Scotland, and even The Hague is an appropriate place. So, their argument is no longer valid.

Should someone claim responsibility for Lockerbie now, they would not be able to recognize their mistake. Because they have already involved the Security Council against Libya, it would not be able to deal with an unidentified criminal. Let us suppose that one person was involved in the Pan-Am explosion over Lockerbie, they would obliterate all the facts, because this would put them in a very embarrassing position. How could the Security Council be involved in an issue because it was told that a country was behind it, and all of sudden an unidentified person claims responsibility for this act? How could the Security Council issue resolutions against this person? Would it deprive him of spare parts? Would it break off diplomatic relations with him, with Carlos for example? The Security Council would become a joke in this case. Consequently, no matter how much evidence there might be, the Security Council would not heed them, on the orders of the Western countries, so that they would not get into difficulties in front of the world. It must be Libya. Even if another country were proved to be involved, they would not admit it. It must be Libya.

This is what made the Libyan people angry; this is what made them revolt, and prepare for confrontation. This issue has become one of defiance, confrontation, and blatant injustice which can only be met with resistance. [passage omitted]

There is yet another factor that had prompted the Libyan people to engage in revolution. Now they are saying that the Libyan people are escalating the crisis, al-Qadhdhafi is escalating the crisis. Indeed we have been more patient than Job. There is a saying which says: Job's patience is adoration of God, and a fools' patience is silly. We have been patient for a long time, and it is you [the West] that are escalating the crisis. [passage omitted] After all this patience, perseverance, give and take, our brandishing an olive branch, cordiality, and even courting of the Western states, they surprised us with Resolution 883 or I do not know which number. Then they say the Libyans are escalating the crisis. But why you are escalating the crisis? What do you want?

Yesterday, the UN commissioner told our foreign secretary: you are escalating, and this is unsettling. But you, for your part, are not you escalating? Very nice, you want us to retreat while you escalate the crisis. So long as there is escalation we must face up to escalation, and so long as there is confrontation we must face up to confrontation. The Libyan people have been wronged and must confront and resist wrongdoing. [applause]

What made the Libyan people angry too was something at the pan- Arab level. Brothers, these days we are hearing a slogan being raised and we are required to carry it out. It is very grave. It is the slogan of land for peace. This is the gravest slogan. This misleads the revolution from Syria to Mauritania, not just in Libya. O Arabs, the slogan of land for peace is grave. It means that it legitimizes and permits occupation for the realization of other objectives: you occupy land and then pose the condition you want. If you meet their condition they give you the land back. This is very serious. [passage omitted]

This is the gravest of slogans. The slogan of land for peace is the gravest of slogans and it must be torn up even at the price of millions of Arabs and a sea of blood. This slogan should be torn asunder. It is a very serious slogan as far as the future of the Arab nation is concerned. Land for peace? First, according to the UN Charter acquisition of land by force is not permitted. Therefore, the Jews have no right to occupy Sinai or the Golan or southern Lebanon. They should withdraw from these territories unconditionally. This was approved by the world from the first day—the world said that there should be an unconditional withdrawal. The withdrawal from Sinai, the Golan, and southern Lebanon has no connection at all with the question of Palestine.

They should withdraw from Egyptian territories unconditionally; the enemy should withdraw from the territories of Syria, otherwise Syria should fight this enemy to make it withdraw unconditionally—either Syria fights this enemy or this enemy withdraws from Syrian territories. This has no relation whatever with recognition at all. The same applies to southern Lebanon. With regard to the West Bank, this is part of Jordan. Gaza is part of Egypt. In 1967 some Egyptian territories were occupied—Sinai including Gaza. Gaza belongs to Egypt. Throughout the years it belonged to Egypt. It was not Palestinian land before 1967. It is Egyptian territory. The West Bank belongs to Jordan as far as the armistice line. It was occupied when it was Jordanian territory in 1967.

The same thing applies to the Golan—it is Syrian territory which was occupied. Therefore it is the right of Syria, Jordan, and Egypt to unconditionally retrieve their territories because they were occupied by force. They will be supported in this by the entire world. It is serious when someone deliberately intends to occupy your land in order to impose conditions on you. This is very serious. The Palestinian question has not been solved; no one has touched it, either in Gaza, or in Jericho, or anywhere else. Jericho is a spot in the West Bank and the latter belongs to Jordan and was occupied in 1967. Jordan has the right to demand unconditionally all its territories which were occupied in 1967. Syria should insist on the return of the Golan unconditionally. This has no connection whatsoever with the Palestinian question because the Palestinian question existed and the struggle for it existed long before the occupation of the Golan. Sinai was occupied while the Palestinian question was in existence; the question had no connection whatever with the occupation of Sinai. The Palestinian question has existed since 1948 and before, while Sinai and the Golan were occupied in 1967. Lebanon was occupied recently—in 1982, or what? Yesterday they occupied southern Lebanon. It has nothing to do with the question of Palestine. Tomorrow they may say: who has not recognized us? Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Sudan, and so on. They have not recognized us. All right, go and occupy part of their territories. Land for peace—we give you your land which we occupied and you establish peace with us. This is very serious. I am astonished—and I call on the Ba'th Party which is ruling Syria—this pan-Arab party for the sake of which people were imprisoned and young people lost their future in the 1960's, while people died for it; it used to be the party raising the banner of Arab nationalism. It was the one which fought in Palestine. It is not possible that the end of the Syrian Ba'th Party would be recognition of Israel in exchange for the Golan. The Golan should be returned either through the United Nations or through war. The Syrian people have the right to fight to recover the Golan. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people are ready to embark upon a long battle. By God, even if we all die we will not accept this injustice; we do not accept land for peace or the recognition of Israel at all. We recognize the democratic Palestinian State which encompasses Jews and Arabs. Israel is an innovation which we do not know, the Israeli world does not exist in geography. [passage omitted].

Brother ambassadors, tell the rulers who now are racing to embrace Israelis and please the West that they might regret it; perhaps America will blow up like the Soviet Union and you might get up one morning and not find it there. Anything is possible to God, and he can do this. We only believe in God who has the power. [applause]

You might get what happened to those who were worshipping Moscow and were saying: The great Soviet Union, the red universe, the red flag will cover the earth and there is nothing but Marxism-Leninism. The god of the Soviet Union died; the poor people became orphans looking for someone to protect them. They asked for God's forgiveness saying that they were not communists. [passage omitted] Have no fear as your enemy, in the first place, is an exploiting capitalist who will collapse. Do not say that this enemy is on the ascendant. The enemy is descending. It is on its deathbed. The entire West is experiencing death. It is covered with a thick cover but it is collapsing from within. [passage omitted ] Your enemy is made of glass and will break and destroy itself.

There is now a struggle for Serbia. They are divided over Serbia. It may appear to be a dangerous struggle and break-up in Europe over Serbia, beginning with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Naturally the issue does not concern

Bosnia-Herzegovina. All the others are in agreement regarding the liquidation of the Muslims. All of them—Russia, America, and so on—have decided not to recognize a Muslim people in Europe; Europe is 100 percent Christian—this is what they have decided.

As for the Arabs, they should accept a Jewish state in Muscat and a racist Israeli state at that, armed with nuclear weapons. America is pursuing North Korea and says to it: We should inspect your installations; you should not have nuclear weapons. Why does not America pursue the Israelis who have more than 200 nuclear warheads? These are the things which make the Libyan people angry. He who does not become angry is without conscience; he is a slave. Anyone seeing this arrogance would get angry. Is it logical to see them pursuing Korea and leaving the Israelis? They should pursue all those who have nuclear weapons. Look at the racist policy. When they saw South Africa becoming a black country, they began to [word indistinct] its nuclear capability. When the whites had that country they turned a blind eye to it although they knew that it was about to manufacture nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Recently they came to Egypt and said that that country should sign a treaty banning the manufacturing of chemical weapons. Egypt told them that the Israelis have not signed anything, not even the treaty banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and now you are asking us to sign the treaty banning the manufacture of chemical weapons. I do not sign. If there is a state most feared by the Israelis it is Egypt. Egypt was the first Arab state to recognize the Israelis and so on, but the real cultural defiance felt by Egypt is not felt by any other Arab country. Egypt knows that along its border there is a traditional enemy. [passage omitted]

Take American justice and this young man Clinton; he is a good man and a man of peace—he does not hate anyone in the world, but the poor man must believe the policies the Americans are involving us in when they tell him to go after Libya, or Korea, or wherever, because they have nuclear weapons. Who believes him if he does not pursue the Israelis? No matter how good he may be, the poor man is the victim of the imperialist policy; they treat him as they did Kennedy. They may get rid of this poor man as they did Kennedy. If he does not go along with them they will get rid of him.

The CIA, the American Central Intelligence Agency—I hope someone brave will come along one day and disband and destroy it. It is this that sabotaged the world; this notorious agency has brought the United States into disrepute and the whole world into disrepute. It has undermined the world. It is like woodworm and poison. It played havoc with governments and regimes and the economy, the dollar, and currencies and everything. It is behind the undermining of the entire world. One hopes that a brave man will come along and do something and deliver America and the American people and the world of this nightmare called CIA. It has spread its nets everywhere. You are aware of all this. Your sons might be among those caught in these nets. Everyone in this whole world is worried about his children lest they get caught in the CIA's nets. The CIA is like a deadly disease. The CIA forges money, the dollar, and the currencies of the whole world. It has long arms and it has devilish plots. [passage omitted] How can Clinton escape from it, the poor man? How can he free himself of it, no matter how good a man he may be or how much he is a man of peace? How can he get rid of this nightmare short of dissolving it? If he did this, he would be able to breathe easy.

There are some imperialist quarters which are very, very dangerous and against freedom and peace. They are to be found in America and the West and are more powerful than Clinton, more powerful than his administration, and more powerful than anyone who loves peace. If Abraham Lincoln or George Washington came back to life they would be powerless unless they destroyed and dismantled these nightmares. [passage omitted]

The same applies to America. If the National Security Council is not dismantled, and the White House which is like the Kremlin and the CIA which is like the KGB, no one, not the American people, will be liberated. What kind of freedom is this when they have these organizations? It is all lies if they say that have a free people, a free press. It is all lies. These claims are continually made by the West. They are the dictatorial regimes. Yet they accuse us of dictatorship.

Generally, they are beating the drums of confrontation with us. And not only with the Libyan people but with all the East. They are getting ready for a crusade. You must know that, after the end of communism, they decided to terminate Islam, the East, and the Arab nation. That is the gist of it.

They changed their tactics. They were confronting the Soviet Union, confrontation in Berlin, and now it has shifted to Rome. It has become North and South. It has become East and West. The East means the Islamic East—that is, the Arabs, or rather the Arabs first. The front line is the Arabs. The Arabs must be attacked and destroyed. Afterward they will go deep into Asia and all those countries. All their actions and their "Satanic Verses" have a great significance. We must not meet Abu Nidal or Ahmad Jibril. I very much regret that they have not accepted the invitation for them to come over here. They are supposed to accept the invitation and come so that I can meet them publicly. They are meeting with the leaders of the IRA and yet they forbid us to do so. They receive the author of "The Satanic Verses" who insulted Islam. Today they are making dancing dresses with Koranic verses printed on them in France or the nightclubs of France. One wonders if the Arabs or those who are defenders of Islam would protest to France or break off relations with France. They would not dare. [passage omitted]

We are warning the Egyptian people against those who have opened fire, the Algerian people against those who have opened fire, the Sudanese people against those who have been opening fire, the Lebanese people who are being trampled on, the Palestinian people who are being treated like a flock of sheep, and the Syrian people whose land is being occupied until it recognizes them. Tomorrow they will occupy Damascus so that they can impose more conditions on the Syrian people. We are warning all these people.

They destroyed Iraq and it was they who got Iraq into the Kuwaiti mess. It was they who destroyed Kuwait, and particularly Kuwait's oil. It was not even Saddam who set fire to Kuwait's oil. It was set on fire by America. All the technology which was used in burning Kuwaiti oil was Western technology. It was deliberate and intentional. They were the ones who set it on fire. They collaborated with Iraq, provided it with experts, gave it the capabilities, and told Saddam to set Kuwaiti oil on fire for reasons which concerned only them. Iraq would need a whole year to be able to set Kuwaiti oil on fire. It was a Western and an American action. It was intentional. It was America who plotted for Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. It told Iraq: In order to reward you for your war against Khomeyni we reward you with Kuwait. Take Kuwait. All this in order to destroy Iraq. These things are quite clear.

We are determined to live with dignity over our land. We can never accept living on this earth while we are lacking in sovereignty. One of us is a slave and the other is a master. We will fight this. We prefer death to acceptance of being their slaves, or surrendering to them, or allowing them to impose their injustice on us. Right is turned into wrong and vice versa.

They want to solve the Lockerbie case; there are a hundred solutions on the table. [passage omitted]

They can go wherever they wish to go. We have decided that we do not need the oil. Oil has now become like any other commodity. Today we are selling a barrel of oil at $10 while production costs are $6 per barrel. It means that a barrel of oil brings in $4. This is nothing. What can we do with $4? Today we are more or less living without oil because a barrel of oil is worth $4. [passage omitted] If we sell the water of the great man-made river we get double the price of the oil.

France does not want a solution. So be it. They do not want friendship. Let there be hatred. They do not want peace; let peace go to hell. What are we? Are we more desirous of peace or friendship than they are? What is our relationship with them ? We do not need them. That is it. We have decided definitely to do without oil. If it continued, well and good, and if it did not—definitely we have made our decision to live without oil and live in the manner that suits us.

Today, we have electricity and this and that and air conditioning units; they must not think our independence and our freedom are dependent on them. When it comes to the real thing and the issue becomes an issue of dignity and an issue of existence and an issue of the future and they want on encroach on us, to hell with all these things. We shall go back to back to burning logs and do away with electricity [words indistinct drowned by applause] [passage omitted].

Now they are asking why Libya has been escalating the situation. They are doing so because they are afraid that such an escalation would spread to other Arab countries and other peoples.

What they would like to see is that when they attack the rest should surrender. Once there is someone who says no, there should be no surrender, others might follow suit. They might say: Look, here is someone who has not surrendered; why then should we surrender?. And thus a new awakening might begin.

Yes, we should be exporting our people's revolution to the rest of the Arab nation because a sin is being committed there. First, the slogan Land for Peace must be burned. All right, peace requires a price so let us motivate the Arab nation to pay the price. Here we are not warmongers, as they have been claiming, nor are we calling for the destruction of Israel or anything like that.

However, the word Israel is a strange name which we do not comprehend. What we know is Palestine; Jews and Arabs should live in Palestine in a democratic state. We said this before. Peaceful solutions should mean, furthermore, that nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction must be removed from the Israelis. A democratic state, like that in South Africa, must be created; we should organize free elections and allow the 7 million Palestinians to return because as long as the 7 million have not returned there will be no solution to this problem.

The Golan is, however, another problem; it is Syria's right to demand its return or to fight until its land has been liberated. But no one should ask it to recognize Israel at all. Syria has every right to liberate the Golan inch by inch and no one has any right to ask it to recongnize Israel. This is its land; it was occupied in 1967. What is dangerous here is linking the two things together. [passage omitted]

I would like here to salute the Libyan people for their pan-Arabism and for understanding the aims of the plot, as well as for their readiness for confrontation. We have no other choice than a confrontation; we have no choices left. But if they are looking for a solution with us they are welcome. If they choose peace we will reciprocate. Peace be upon you. [crowd applauds, chants]

### Prime Minister Durdah Comments on al-Kihya Case

*NC2301180094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Surt, 23 Jan (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee—a title equivalent to prime minister—has praised Egypt's role and President Mubarak's sincere attempts to support Libya and ease the blockade imposed on it.

In a statement to journalists today, Durdah said cooperation with Egypt continues in all fields, especially the security field, noting that Egypt's security is also Libya's security.

On the fate of [kidnapped former foreign minister] Mansur al-Kihya, Durdah stressed that this issue is nothing but a suspicious attempt to undermine Egyptian-Libyan relations and to complete the blockade imposed on Libya.

Durdah did not play down the effects of the UN Security Council sanctions on the Libyan economy. He said Libya is now preparing its budget, taking these sanctions into consideration. In its own way it is trying to maintain the defense allocations and subsidies for next year the same as they were in last year's budget.

The General People's Congress committees have continued their discussions for the second day to draft and prepare the resolutions of the basic people's congresses. These resolutions will be announced tomorrow, while the final session of the General People's Congress will be held on Tuesday [25 January].

### General People's Congress Continues Work

*LD2401102794 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Surt, Ay Annar [January] 24, JAMAHIRYA NEWS AGENCY—The general meeting of the people's congresses, the people's committees, unions, syndicates and professional associations - the General People's Congress - last night resumed its proceedings in the city of Surt to formulate the decisions of the basic people's congresses of their 2nd session for 1403 A.P.D.

The five committees, set up by the congress, including the committees of laws, the committee of follow up and reports, the committee of public affairs the committee of foreign policy and the committee of budget and trilateral programme resumed the sorting out of the decisions of the basic people's congresses putting them under the appropriate items and reading out and debating the remarks coming from the basic people's congresses for approval in their final form.

## Sudan

### Al-Bashir Stresses Strengthened Ties With China

*EA2201211494 Omdurman Sudan TV Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] A visiting Chinese media delegation today held a news conference with the president of the republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. In discussing those developments concerning Sudan, the president of the republic stressed the exceptional relations which bound Sudan to China, and said that those relations were witnessing a new stage of development. His excellency referred to Sudan's efforts to strengthen its relations with countries in the Far East such as China, Indonesia, Korea, and Pakistan. On the efforts being made to achieve peace in the country, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir made clear that the government was keen on seeking a peaceful resolution to the problem of the south, pointing out that the war in the south was political—and that its resolution must be political. He said that the government encouraged the efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development countries to achieve peace.

On relations between the Arab and Muslim Peoples' Conference and the Sudanese Government, the president said that the conference was a people's organization and had no official status or link with the government.

### Foreign Minister: Country To Turn Toward China

*EA2101163094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has stated that Sudan's foreign relations with neighboring countries rely on firm principles, which are based on respect for existing regimes and borders and noninterference in internal affairs.

He pointed out that there were some powers which did not approve of the stability of Sudan and which strove to disrupt its relations with its neighbors. He said this yesterday when he met a Chinese media delegation.

The foreign minister pointed out the presence of foreign interference, which sought to disrupt good relations with fraternal Eritrea. He stressed that there was a need to be wary of such plots.

During the meeting, Dr. Abu-Salih reviewed Sudan's efforts to achieve an Arab accord. His excellency appealed to African countries to rely on themselves to develop their own capabilities. He pointed out that the stands of western countries against Sudan came about because of Sudan's independent decision-making. He confirmed that Sudan would be turning toward the east and China to achieve its independence.

### Deputy Speaker Defects to UK, Speaks on Terrorism

*NC2101135794 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p 6*

[Report by 'Atif al-Ghamri in London]

[Text] Aldu Aju, deputy speaker of the Sudanese parliament [name and title as published], who announced his dissent from the Sudanese Government and asked for political asylum in Britain, has revealed the secrets behind transforming Sudan into a center for extremists from outside Sudan. He publicized the covert methods the Sudanese Government has resorted to to mislead the world about the locations and nature of training programs for terrorists inside Sudan.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM, Aldu clarified that at the beginning of the coup in 1989, the al-Bashir government's dealings with the international terrorist organizations inside Sudan used to be public. However, Sudan started to come under regional and international pressure and decided to resort to secrecy.

He highlighted the fact that all these activities take place under the control of al-Turabi's front, which is called the Islamic Front, that he will be talking from a position of authority, and that what he says are things he has seen for himself.

Aldu said: Their method of secrecy made them set up locations on the outskirts of Khartoum, which are private farms where training takes place. In addition, training takes place in mosques, where people usually come to pray. The extremists also show up among the crowds in the mosque, but they stay on until the training and guidance courses start. These go on until 0400. Iranians and other people from Arab countries do the training.

He added that the second method is to have public training centers for popular defense programs in numerous locations such as Jazirat Aba, Juba, and Danqilah. He said: For example, 26,000 mujahid fighters were publicly graduated from training camps for popular defense in Jazirat Aba on 11 December 1992. He noted that to mislead people, secret training operations for terrorists take place as part of this public training. Aldu said: Extremists from Iran, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and other Islamic and Arab countries take part in these operations. Recently, some extremists from African countries were added to them, but their general guidance comes from Iran.

The third method is to set up what is called the "international friendship council" which is chaired by al-Bashir himself and is based in Khartoum. Its public duty is to support the relations of friendship with other people. But the reality is that this council is a tool through which contacts with all terrorist groups in the Arab world and Africa are maintained.

On the Sudanese people's stand on these operations, Aldu said that all job opportunities are doled out to those who undergo training that is under the control of the Islamic Front led by al- Turabi. He pointed out that the Front has organized a six-month training program in which each group of Sudanese is sent to Iran for training and returns after six months. After that, a second group is sent for another six months' training period.

Aldu Aju added that after their return to Sudan these individuals are distributed among the army, police, economic establishments, and embassies abroad, noting that all Sudanese diplomats are trained in Iran.

On the Sudanese people's attitude toward Egypt, Aju said: The Sudanese people want to resolve every dispute with Egypt, as relations between the two peoples are long-standing. Egypt must be interested in Sudanese events, Aju noted, saying that Egypt cannot just sit and look on. He said that Sudan is governed by one extremist party. He noted that the regime in Khartoum does not trust Sudanese national principles. It imports principles of violence and terrorism from abroad and acts to destabilize the entire region. Egypt, he said, is the largest force in the region and the Sudanese respect Egypt.

Aju said: The international friendship council is responsible for foreign policy in Sudan and all the things that the Sudanese foreign minister says regarding the negotiations to solve differences with Egypt will not lead to an agreement. He further noted that foreign policy in Sudan is not run by the foreign minister.

On the Khartoum government's foreign policy, Aju said that the Sudanese Government does not deal with governments but with extremists. It has no good ties with any neighboring Arab or African country but is trying to act in these countries against the governments and cited Ethiopia as an example. He said that this behavior affects Sudan's relations with the Arab world, Africa, and the whole world.

Aju noted that those who attended the Arab Islamic peoples conference that was held in Khartoum recently are extremists who came from Arab, Islamic, African, Asian, and even American countries. It was noted that the statements made at the conference were not critical but extremist. He pointed out that if religion had really been behind this behavior, Sudan would better have maintained good ties with Egypt because Egypt is the home of al- Azhar Mosque, which will never be secular. He noted that the events in Sudan are not motivated by religion but politics. He said that the Sudanese people are opposed to this state of affairs, but what can they do when rifles are directed at them and they are surrounded by security, spying, and intellectual suppression agencies and faced with the Islamic Front's control of livelihood, finance, and trade? Summing up the situation in Sudan, he said: Sudan is a state that has collapsed after the al-Bashir government destroyed the economy and all the state's departments. War in the south is exacerbating the destruction and the collapse is worsening.

### Former Opposition Official Returns to Country

*AB2301174394 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (SUNA)—The former secretary general of Anyanya Two Movement, Ben Lail Mendeng [name as received], returned home Saturday [22 January] from abroad, ending years he spent at the ranks of the so-called Sudanese opposition abroad.

Mendeng was received following his return by the secretary general of the council for International People's Friendship, Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, welcoming him home and explaining that the opposition abroad has fallen at the hands of forces that do not want to see peace prevail in the Sudan.

### Ummah's al-Mahdi Rejects NIF Offer of Party Merger

*PM2401103094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 94 pp1, 4*

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Al-Mahdi Rejects al-Turabi's Offer of Reconciliation and Merger of the Two Parties"]

[Excerpts] London—Informed Sudanese sources have revealed that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF], has paid a visit to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party, in an attempt to persuade him agree to a reconciliation with the regime.

The sources said that Dr. al-Turabi made al-Mahdi "an astounding offer" expressing willingness to meet all the Ummah Party's demands if the latter agreed to merge with the NIF.

They added that al-Mahdi rejected the offer and told al-Turabi that the NIF cannot escape accountability and answerability for the harm done to the country.

Ummah Party sources contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT have confirmed these facts and said that non-Sudanese parties with NIF links also contacted al-Mahdi to persuade him to enter into a dialogue that would lead to a reconciliation with the regime but he refused to discuss the matter and submitted documents and facts showing the magnitude of the damage inflicted on the country over the past four years, pointing out that the NIF was responsible for that.

The Ummah Party sources said that al-Turabi admitted that the internal situation had reached a dead end. They also said that NIF officials who were members of the Sudanese Government's delegation to the second Abuja round of negotiations offered Garang's movement the option of merger with the NIF in one party but that was rejected by the movement on the grounds of vast differences between the views of the two sides. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Sudanese capital Khartoum is suffering from an acute fuel shortage leading to the reduction of the ration for taxi drivers to one gallon a day. There has also been a severe bread crisis in Khartoum for the past two weeks. Furthermore, circles close to the government have admitted that there is also a liquidity crisis which has delayed payment of the salaries of the government employees and members of the armed forces. [passage omitted]

## Bahrain

### Amir, Prime Minister Meet Iran's Agriculture Minister

*JN2201132194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0932 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, this morning received 'Isa Kalantari, minister of agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on several issues of common interest, and discussed enhancing the relations of cooperation, particularly in the agricultural fields.

For his part, the Iranian minister expressed his thanks and appreciation for Bahrain's eagerness to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### Armed Forces Chief on Arms Purchases, Strategy

*JN2301170394 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Jan 94 p 8*

[Interview with Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, chief of staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, by Samir Yasin; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Yasin] What is the strategic objective of building a military force outgunned and outmanned by Iraq. Is it to stall an Iraqi offensive for a few days, pending the arrival of aid from the allies, or to be a match for the enemy and inflict defeat on it?

[Al-Mu'min] Relevant studies have been made and endorsed by the government. We are in the process of building a highly trained and technically advanced force with the potential of deterring aggression on Kuwait. We do have connections in the Gulf and wider Arab spheres, as well as with allies and friends.

[Yasin] The way Kuwait has diversified the sources of its arms purchases leads one to believe the contracts were awarded to reward the allies for their role in the liberation of Kuwait. How much of a role does politics play in Kuwait's arms purchases? Were previous purchases something of a reward?

[Al-Mu'min] The choice of one weapon over another is determined first and foremost by our defense requirements, as well as by quality. Without a doubt, the political factor does come into it, albeit only marginally.

[Yasin] You are concentrating on sophisticated weapons in pursuit of quality. How do you think you can offset the deficit in manpower qualified to absorb complex military technology?

[Al-Mu'min] We are indeed after such technologically sophisticated weaponry to make up for a deficit in manpower. I do not think, however, that the lack of personnel is that much of a problem. We conducted a survey, and it emerged that the human resources can be made available. We are now looking into how to institute incentives for a voluntary enlistment in the military. We need all the help we can get from the Kuwaiti people. Needless to say, joining the ranks of the military amounts to a career that may come in handy once a conscript is released from service.

Compulsory service and reservists together make up a good percentage of the military's requirements for personnel. It is also possible to recruit civilians for bureaucratic duties in the rear lines.

[Yasin] What are the ultimate military and political objectives you seek from the military training with the allied forces?

[Al-Mu'min] The most important objective we seek from military training is to upgrade Kuwaiti military efficiency in general, with an emphasis on dealing with foreign military forces to gain experience and establish joint coordination on the command level, taking into consideration the experiences of Desert Storm.

[Yasin] Has Kuwait benefited from the competition between the countries that export weapons? How this has taken place?

[Al-Mu'min] Yes, and this style is used to open the door for competition between various countries in the field of military industry. This competition encourages the companies to present their best offers. I cannot define specific fields in which Kuwait benefited from this competition, but this is something possible during the field experiments and through armament offers to Kuwait.

[Yasin] What military systems have been adopted by the Kuwaiti Army to ensure maximum benefit for the three fighting services when there is a need?

[Al-Mu'min] The current systems reflect the importance of cooperation between the three fighting services. This was emphasized during joint training. Systems on the command level were worked out, and there are representatives of each force in all other forces.

[Yasin] Iraq can produce a 150-km range missiles. How can this striking power, which is capable of hitting deep into Kuwait, be confronted?

[Al-Mu'min] We can confront this threat through taking a host of negative and positive precautions. The negative precautions are represented in security precautions and improving warning systems. As for the positive precautions, they are represented in being equipped with weapons able to deal with the Iraqi missiles, and we do not hide this objective.

[Yasin] The sea is seen as a main area from which Kuwaiti security can be penetrated. What stage has the process of reconstructing the Kuwait navy reached?

[Al-Mu'min] The naval force's plans were decided after the naval force conducted studies on its needs to carry out its duties. The studies are in an advanced stage of evaluation, but selecting boats and ships is more complicated than selecting other weapons. Deciding their specifications needs more time, but we have to take into consideration the protection of our waters and maritime borders.

[Yasin] Today is the third anniversary of the start of the liberation war, Desert Storm. What are the beneficial lessons of this war? Are these lessons being translated on the level of Kuwaiti military action?

### Joint Naval Exercises With Italy Begin in Gulf

*LD2301114794 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 1100 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Joint Italian-Kuwaiti naval maneuvers have begun in Kuwaiti waters in the Gulf, northeast of the island of Kubbar. They are aimed at training the Navy of the emirate in the defense of the shores and, in particular, of the oil plants.

The exercise will last two days; 600 sailors of both countries will participate. The frigate "Sagittario", the corvette "Urania" and 330 men—sailors and officers—will represent Italy.

Firing practice with real shells is scheduled.

### Indian Minister Bhatia Discusses Area Situation

*LD2301234294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1840 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 Jan—R.L. Bhatia, Indian minister of state for external affairs, stressed today that the stability of the Gulf region was dependent on Iraq's compliance with all UN resolutions related to the war to liberate Kuwait.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, Bhatia said that India, which had participated through the UN in formulating these resolutions, was aware that this was the way to achieve the prosperity [rakha'] of the region.

About his visit to Kuwait, Bhatia said that it was aimed at discussing prospects for cooperation and investment between the two countries. He said he had discussed the current economic reforms in India with the senior Kuwaiti officials he met today. [passage omitted]

Bhatia hailed Kuwaiti-Indian relations and described them as strong and historic, referring to the visits recently made by some Kuwaiti officials to India. [passage omitted on details of visits]

Regarding the conditions of Muslims in India after the destruction of the Babri mosque [in Ayodhya], Bhatia said that the situation has been stable, particularly since the recent elections in India. He stressed that Indian Muslims have been enjoying their rights on an equal basis as other citizens. [passage omitted on the destruction of Babri mosque in 1992]

Regarding the Kashmir issue, the Indian minister of state for foreign affairs said that that question concerned India and Pakistan and had to be resolved peacefully through bilateral talks. He said that many meetings have been held with the Pakistani side to discuss the issue. He pointed out that India submitted two proposals as a contribution to resolving the issue during a meeting between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan in Islamabad at the beginning of this year. He said that the proposals concerned measures to build trust between the two countries, including the demarcation of sea boundaries between the two countries.

Regarding the nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan, Bhatia said that India previously declared that it did not believe in the military use of nuclear energy and India used nuclear energy for civilian purposes. He revealed that India was discussing the question of disarmament with Pakistan, and expressed his hope that Islamabad would agree to that.

Regarding his tour after Kuwait, Bhatia said that he would visit Bahrain and Yemen to discuss the prospect of increasing trade exchanges and bolstering bilateral cooperation with Manamah and San'a'.

## Qatar

### 'High-Ranking' Iranian Delegation Arrives

*LD2201173794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Interior Minister Besharati arrived in Doha, the capital of Qatar, this morning at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation. During the first round of talks, the Qatari interior minister described Besharati's visit to Qatar as an indication of the importance the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to the expansion and consolidation of relations with Qatar, adding: We must not allow certain impure hands to throw a wrench in the good relations between the two countries. He declared his country's full readiness to expand relations between the two countries in the political, security, economic, and commercial fields and in the battle against narcotics. He expressed the wish to benefit from the Islamic Republic of Iran's experience in combating narcotics.

Besharati, for his part, referred to the good ties between Iran and Qatar and expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to cooperate with Qatar and neighboring countries in various fields.

### Interior Ministers Meet

*JN2201124694 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Doha, 22 Jan (WAKH)—A session of official Qatari-Iranian talks was held in Doha today under Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

The session dealt with ways to bolster bilateral relations in various fields, particularly security fields, as well as regional, Islamic, and international developments.

The Iranian interior minister arrived in Doha on a two-day visit to Qatar.

### Amir Receives Iranian Interior Minister Besharati

*LD2301221994 Tehran IRNA in English 2117 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Minister of the Interior 'Ali Mohammad Besharati met the Emir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani in Doha Sunday said the water supply project from Iran to Qatar is now past its feasibility study and was going ahead as originally planned.

He also suggested a concerted move by the petroleum exporting countries to reverse the downward trend of the oil price.

The emir of Qatar welcomed the proposal saying he would do everything possible, including a production cut, to ensure that oil prices would rise.

Besharati conveyed to Al Thani the greetings of Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and said that the ties between the two countries are based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs.

He said that the recent setting up of the Bushehr-Doha shipping line between the two countries should speed up trade and related ties between the two countries.

The Qatari ruler welcomed the idea of Iranian exports to his country and extended an invitation from Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani to visit his emirate.

Later today, the Iranian minister met the Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani and discussed promotion of economic and political ties between the two countries.

In the meeting which was also attended by the Qatari interior minister, Shaykh Hamad called for promotion of Tehran-Doha ties in accordance with international laws, and appreciated Iran's support for Qatar's principled stands.

He also referred to Iran's relations with the United Arab Emirates, saying Qatar was making efforts to prevent exploitation of the issue of the three Persian Gulf islands, although it appreciates iran's sincere stand in this regard.

Regional countries should cooperate with each other and should realize that economic development depends on security in the region, said the Qatari heir apparent.

In the evening, Besharati accompanied by his Qatari counterpart visted the police headquarters.

### Iranian Stresses Cooperation

*LD2301115994 Tehran IRNA in English 1143 GMT 23 GMT 94*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati underlined the importance of cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries as a guarantee of maintaining security in the region.

Speaking to reporters in Doha on Saturday [22 January], he said Iran as a powerful country which plays a major role in preservation of security and tranquility in the region, is ready to cooperate with regional countries.

He stressed that withdrawal of foreign forces and fleet from the Persian Gulf waters not only would not harm security in the region but would rather reinforce it.

Referring to Iran-UAE dispute, Besharati said the two neighbors could settle their dispute over one of the Persian Gulf islands through negotiations and remarked that Iran had repeatedly voiced readiness in this connection.

He further noted that interference of foreign countries should not be interpreted as their concern for security, adding that Iran would never interfere in the affairs of regional countries.

On fabrications made by some western media on human rights violation in Iran, the minister said those in fact were supporting terrorists who were involved in the massacre of many Iranian senior officials and civilians.

He regretted fratricide in Afghanistan and noted that Iran, like other Muslim countries, had made diplomatic efforts to establish peace and tranquility in that country and assured that the dispute could be solved through negotiations.

## Saudi Arabia

### King Fahd Sends Condolences to Syria's al-Asad

*LD2101201894 Riyadh SPA in English 1942 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 21, SPA—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz condoled, in a telephone call, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad over the sad demise of his eldest son Basil al-Asad. King Fahd prayed to Allah almighty to bestow his mercy on the deceased and to grant his bereaved family patience and solace. Basil, 31, an army major, engineer and parachutist, died on Friday in a car crash.

### 'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah for Minor Pilgrimage

*LD2301225094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 23 Jan—Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, arrived in Jeddah this evening to perform al-'Umrah [minor pilgrimage]. [passage omitted]

### 'Arafat Reportedly To Apologize for War Stand

*JN2301182594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Dispatch by 'Abdallah al-Shihri from Riyadh]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Jeddah tonight on the first visit to Saudi Arabia since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. 'Arafat, who will perform the minor pilgrimage, will be accompanied by a delegation which comprises Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department. Informed sources said that 'Arafat will head for Riyadh tomorrow to meet with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and senior Saudi officials.

Reliable sources said that 'Arafat will offer an official apology to the Saudi monarch for his stands during the Gulf war. 'Arafat will also discuss with the custodian of the two holy mosques the developments in the Palestinian-Israeli accord on self-rule in the occupied territories, particularly following the Oslo meeting between 'Arafat and Peres, and the results of the summit meeting between Presidents Bill Clinton and Hafiz al-Asad as well as its repercussions on the peace process in the region.

'Arafat said in an arrival statement in Cairo this morning that he will meet with some Saudi officials to discuss the latest developments in the peace process. Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis, said—following his meeting Friday with the Saudi ambassador in Tunis—that 'Arafat's meeting with King Fahd will strengthen Saudi-Palestinian relations as well as Arab solidarity.

### Press Comments on Developments in Peace Process

*LD2201144694 Riyadh SPA in English 1243 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Jan 22, SPA—Saudi Arabia's Arabic newspapers today highlighted editorially Saudi Arabia's overall development and commented on the on-going peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the peace process in the Middle East, the Jeddah- based AL-MADINAH said despite the Israeli maneuvers, a comprehensive settlement will be realized in the Middle East in view of the fact that it is being supported by the international public opinion.

"Moreover, the comprehensive settlement is supported by America and the Arab countries and at the same time it has become an essential matter after the end of the era of the Cold War," the paper added.

The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ deplored the intransigent policy of Israel and said the Israeli policy would block the march of peace.

The daily criticized the proposal of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to hold referendum in Israel on the idea of restoring Golan Heights to Syria and said the proposal runs counter to the Resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the Security Council.

The idea of referendum constitutes a violation of the international law because it would be illogical to inquire from people of a country about the future of another country, the daily added.

The Dammam-based AL-YA'UM deplored a statement of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which he said Israel would not withdraw from Golan Heights before a visit of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Israel and said such a statement was part of a series of the maneuvers practiced by Tel Aviv.

The paper called for a firm stand against the Israeli maneuvers and procrastination which aim at blocking the peace process. "It is high time for the U.S. to shorten the period of talks and take the appropriate measures for the implementation of the international resolutions," the paper said.

## Yemen

### Prime Minister on Accord Document, Reservations

*NC2201193294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has voiced optimism regarding the document drawn up by the National Dialogue Committee to solve the dispute between leaders in north and south Yemen. The YSP Central Committee declared that the document, which was prepared with the help of various political forces, is a document of national consensus.

It appears, however, that implementing the agreement's clauses will run into some difficulties particularly in light of a reply message sent by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih accusing him of squandering public funds. Another difficulty is that the leaders in the south have stressed that their return to take up their posts in Sanaa hinges on the removal of the causes that made them leave the city in the first place.

Our correspondent Tawfiq Jarulit interviewed Prime Minister al-'Attas and prepared the following report:

[Begin recording] [Jarulit] The YSP Central Committee held an extraordinary session in Aden today under the chairmanship of Yemeni Vice President and YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid. YSP deputies in the Yemeni parliament and the secretaries of YSP branches in Yemeni governorates attended the session.

[Al-'Attas] The YSP Central Committee has devoted considerable attention to this document. This meeting was held specifically to consider this document in a manner appropriate to its importance and to enable every YSP member to carry out his duty in implementing it.

[Jarulit] Therefore the YSP will sign the Pledge and Accord Document, isn't that right?

[Al-'Attas] The YSP will sign the document, as the National Dialogue Committee did, during a major ceremony, the date and venue of which will be agreed upon. This will happen when a special committee completes clause number seven which deals specifically with security arrangements and when guarantees are drawn up that the agreement will be implemented.

[Jarulit] What powers will be given to the vice president in the amended constitution?

[Al-'Attas] The vice president will assist the president and will carry out the president's tasks when he is abroad, ill, or cannot carry out his duties for any other reason. He will also have the power to supervise the prime minister's work in connection with local government affairs.

[Jarulit] Is the crisis in unified Yemen over or do some reservations persist?

[Al-'Attas] To tell the truth, some parties to the dialogue—specifically parties within the coalition—have some reservations about the document. This casts doubt on the prospects for implementing it. [end recording]

## Amman Reportedly Likely To Host Salih-al-Bid Meeting

*JN2301084794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jan 94 pp 1, 31*

[By Salah al-Qallab from Aden]

[Excerpts] It has become almost certain that the anticipated meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid will be held in Amman.

A source at the Follow-Up Committee, which is making arrangements for this meeting, and which comprises several leading national and partisan figures, has informed AL-DUSTUR that the committee's preference is to see the ceremony for signing the document of understanding take place in the Jordanian capital under the auspices of His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people.

The source added that since the security situation precludes the holding of such a meeting in Yemen, all parties prefer to see the reconciliation meeting between the Yemeni president and his deputy take place in Amman, given the role His Majesty King Husayn has played to achieve reconciliation, and also due to the balanced Jordanian position toward the Yemeni crisis from the outset.

The source indicated that invitations for this ceremony will be extended to some Arab leaders, foremost among which will be Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, representatives of several foreign countries, and Arab League representatives after coordination is effected between the Yemeni Government and the Jordanian Government.

It is clear that the Follow-Up Committee charged with making arrangements for this meeting, which comprises Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum, Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, 'Abdallah al-Anisi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar, and Ahmad Jabir 'Afif, has agreed to hold the reconciliation meeting in Jordan in light of the contacts held within the past four days.

Given the current security situation, heightened tension, and several complicated circumstances, it has become very clear that it is impossible to hold the reconciliation meeting anywhere in Yemen. In this regard, several senior Yemeni officials said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih refuses to see the meeting take place in Hadramawt. Similarly, Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid is opposed to signing the reconciliation document in Sanaa.

Several Yemeni officials said that the security situation and mutual mistrust will prompt any official who will have to attend this meeting to bring with him a large number of guards and escorts to protect him, a number that could exceed 5,000—something which would make it impossible to get the situation under control, and which might consequently cause a security disaster. [passage omitted]

It is to be recalled that the Yemeni vice president has welcomed the holding of this meeting in Amman. A senior official of the Yemeni Socialist Party has said: In case it is found to be impossible to hold the reconciliation meeting on Yemeni territory, our first preference is to see it held in Amman. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR also learned that France expressed a willingness to host the reconciliation meeting on its territory. However, Yemeni officials said that they prefer to see it held on Arab territory if it is found to be impossible to hold it on Yemeni territory. They added that they prefer to see it held in Amman if an agreement is reached on holding it in an Arab capital.

## Ex-President Warns Against Obstructing Accord

*PM2401104094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 94 p4*

[Hammud Munsir report: " 'Ali Nasir Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Warn Against Impeding the Agreement; Local Government Would Ease the People's Suffering"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa—Former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has warned against any attempt to obstruct or retract the "document of pledge and accord" for the settlement of the Yemeni crisis. He said that "any such attempt would plunge the country into a whirlpool of unhelpful conflicts and divisions."

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in the Syrian capital Damascus, he said it was very important that the agreement should go into practical implementation as soon as it was signed by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. He expressed hope that a venue and date would be set for the signing as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

'Ali Nasir also said: "What is important as far as we are concerned is that the basic principles reached should be implemented in an atmosphere of trust between members of the political leadership with nobody feeling that he won or lost. Everyone should feel that the triumph went to Yemen, the Yemeni people, their unity, and their stability." He emphasized the importance of implementation which, he said, was more significant than the signing. [passage omitted]

'Ali Nasir revealed that, in his telephone contacts with President Salih, Vice President al-Bid, and Shaykh al-Ahmar the day before yesterday, he received assurances that the subcommittee assigned by the the Dialogue Committee to make arrangements for the signing ceremony had already begun its work and was preparing to select a venue and set a date for the signing of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Concluding his telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that the local government system confirmed in the document was a worthy solution to many of the crises experienced under the Yemeni political system before and after the unity, and also an ideal solution for the people's suffering. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Sons of Yemen League believes that the agreement lays firm foundations for the building of united Yemen. In a statement it issued yesterday, it expressed full support for the document and appealed to all factions of the Yemeni people to stand united in support of that document and its implementation.

It said that any delay or dithering in the implementation of the document would lead to a greater crisis in Yemen with no time for the mediators to mediate and no time for dialogue.

## Culture Minister Discusses Government Crisis

*JN2201175394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p 19*

[Interview with Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar al-Kuhali by Salih al-Qallab in Aden on 21 January]

[Text] [Al-Qallab] Views differ on the possibility of implementing the agreement of understanding reached a few days ago. As a responsible member of the government, the follow-up committee, and Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], what are the actual prospects for implementing this agreement?

[Al-Kuhali] It is difficult to be absolutely certain if this agreement will be implemented or not, but I earnestly hope that at least part of it will be implemented. However, even if this agreement is not implemented fully or partially, I believe that this agreement, which is actually a social contract, will remain a bright spot in Yemeni history.

If we cannot implement this document now, I am perfectly convinced that future Yemeni generations will produce leaders capable of implementing it because this document has created and will continue to create a new awareness of the need to establish a nation on the level of advanced nations based on institutions.

In short, I believe that this document is fit to be the national program of this generation. It is enough that our present generation is able to implement it or some of it at least.

[Al-Qallab] The follow-up committee, which was formed to implement this agreement and of which you are a member, is supposed to have taken some measures over the past three days. What has happened so far?

[Al-Kuhali] Yesterday we called for a meeting of the follow-up committee in Sanaa but I could not go because I was on a mission abroad. I found out that before attending such a meeting, I had to attend the YSP Central Committee and Political Bureau meetings, which will give the YSP views on this document.

Here, I would like to say that the YSP, represented by its Central Committee, Political Bureau, and other leaders, is committed to the very letter of this agreement and to implementing it and that the party will launch a large-scale campaign to muster popular support for what has been agreed on in the document of understanding.

[Al-Qallab] We heard two days ago that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the speaker of the House of Representatives, raised certain objections to this document. Is this true or are these mere rumors?

[Al-Kuhali] I heard that Shaykh 'Abdallah raised certain objections to this agreement but I also heard that these objections have been withdrawn. I am happy to hear that.

[Al-Qallab] We also heard that the president insists that 'Ali Salim al-Bid must return to Sanaa before the document is signed, that the agreement should be signed after al-Bid has resumed his normal official duties. Is this true?

[Al-Kuhali] This is another issue that will be discussed by the follow-up committee entrusted with preparations for the meeting between the president and the vice president and the meeting of the secretary generals of the parties.

[Al-Qallab] Obviously, you are attaching great importance to security matters in the agreement. Has there been any progress in this regard over the past few days?

[Al-Kuhali] No, nothing has been achieved so far, but even before reaching the agreement, the Interior Ministry tried to deal with the issue of the terrorists who were responsible for the assassinations and explosions that claimed the lives of so many people. Nothing has been achieved in this regard because those in control did not cooperate with the ministry. We hope such cooperation will materialize after the recent agreement.

[Al-Qallab] Yesterday, some of your newspapers said that a military plane from the south bombed military border positions in the north. How true is this report and why was it published?

[Al-Kuhali] First of all this report is absolutely untrue. The YSP is aware of what war means, what it means to have a warplane bomb military positions. For a plane to mount combat missions means that war is actually going on. This is not a joke and therefore, the report is baseless and fabricated. As to why this lie was disseminated, I have no idea. You can ask those who published it.

[Al-Qallab] It was decided to hold the reconciliation meeting between the president and his deputy in Hadramawt between 25 and 30 January. Do you think that this meeting will take place in Hadramawt and within this timeframe?

[Al-Kuhali] As a member of the committee, I do not want to say anything in this regard before the committee meets and discusses this issue in detail and see what other options we have.

[Al-Qallab] You have said that this document may be for the future generations, what are the threats facing that agreement and its basic elements?

[Al-Kuhali] The document may not please certain parties and may pose a threat to the positions of certain centers of power. But I think the most important issues are the local government, removing military forces from cities, and arresting the "terrorists."

In all cases, let us wait. I think that, in the short term, some of those who feel they are the stronger party will seek to abort this document. As for the longer term, I believe that the Yemeni people will be the stronger party and will impose their will on everybody and implement the document sooner or later.

We have to start implementing what can be implemented now, and at the same time work on implementing this document in the future, because it concerns the interest of all people and because it is the document of all Yemeni political parties and forces, and not the document of the YSP or the General People's Congress. It does not mark the victory or the defeat of any party. It marks a triumph for the homeland and a genuine buttress for the state of unity.

[Al-Qallab] As a member of the follow-up committee, a government minister, and a YSP leader, aren't you afraid that a major security or military emergency will obstruct that agreement?

[Al-Kuhali] In fact such a concern exists, and I am not revealing any secrets by saying so. Yesterday I heard there was some military tension in Yarim area. I immediately called Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib and told him that we must work together and in quiet to prevent any surprises. I also urged vigilance because there are many parties that would not like to see that agreement implemented.

Frankly I share this concern, and I fear a major surprise in the security and military field. But in general, I think we should not worry so much about these concerns and work to implement this agreement and sign the document. I believe we are capable of confronting any emergency by combining resolve and self-restraint.

[Al-Qallab] Are things quiet now on the former borders between the two parts?

[Al-Kuhali] In fact troops are intermingled everywhere from 'Amran to Lawdar and there is no tension in the way described by certain media. I stress that anyone who wagers on the split of the country will lose.

[Al-Qallab] Certain Arab parties, particularly Jordan, have exerted efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis. Has there been a decision to invite some Arab leaders to attend the celebrations marking the meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the vice president?

[Al-Kuhali] We in the YSP welcome anyone who helped and supported us to attend these expected celebrations. Here I wish to underline the major role played by His Majesty King Husayn to protect the Yemeni unity and close the ranks.

[Al-Qallab] The YSP and its leaders have been accused of submitting to neighboring regional influences. What do you say?

[Al-Kuhali] One can understand that such things are said and used in political conflicts. These accusation are based on the fact that the other party has to defend itself against accusations of being out of touch with the age and rejecting the future. In all cases, these things have been said, but you know that such accusations exist in our Arab and Yemeni heritage. When we have a calamity we must attribute it to an enemy from outside or resolve it through a friend from outside.

I say that if we want to address our problems, then we must not take them to the outside. If the outside means the Gulf states, then the YSP is calling, emphatically, for new relations with these states on the basis of frankness, clarity, and common interests. We call for an Arab Peninsula free from confrontations or trenches. We do not wish to export ideology or slogans. We have to accept each other and coexist on clear basis and without subservience or submission.

[Al-Qallab] Is it true that the United States does not wish to see Yemen partitioned again?

[Al-Kuhali] Yes. We appreciate all the efforts that have been exerted to help us contain the crisis from the Arabs, Europe, and the United States. We welcome such efforts and roles.

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## Indonesian Foreign Minister Alatas Arrives on Visit

*JN2401100594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister brother Ali Alatas and his delegation arrived in Sanaa last night on a short visit to our country. During the visit, he will meet with brother officials at the Foreign Ministry and the Planning and Development Ministry, as well as senior state officials. In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA, Alatas said that he and his delegation are pleased to visit our country. He indicated the deep-rooted, historical relations between the Yemeni and Indonesian peoples, particularly [words indistinct] the tolerant Islamic faith. He said that many Indonesian citizens are descended from Yemeni origins, and that he takes pride in his Yemeni roots.

He was welcomed by Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindawa, a number of brother officials, and the Indonesian ambassador and embassy staff.

## Saddam Chairs RCC Meeting, Explains Crop Price Rise

*JN2201165894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 100 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers. At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the leader president explained the reasons for increasing the state's purchasing prices of wheat and rice crops from farmers, especially at an early stage of the agricultural season. His excellency said: The announcement of the price increases will encourage farmers to pay more attention to fertilization, irrigation, and the use of pesticides, which will increase the agricultural crop and will show farmers a clear horizon to reassure them about the fate of their products after harvesting.

His excellency said that it is a national, economic, and technical duty of every one in this stage—a duty which will remain a priority in the future—to continue to encourage farmers to increase their production because agriculture provides food for citizens. He said that providing food and persisting in efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food is a vital part of national security that it should be followed up with interest. His excellency said that it is not a luxury for us to decide to increase the states' purchasing prices of the basis agricultural crops. It is necessary to study the increase in the state's purchasing prices for other crops, such as corn, and industrial products.

In light of the instructions of the leader president, may God preserve him, it has been decided to increase the purchasing prices of wheat and barley for the current agricultural season as follows:

1. Wheat: The current price of 1 tonne of first-class wheat is 5,000 dinars. The new price of 1 tonne is 8,000 dinars. The current price of 1 tonne of coarse wheat is 4,750 dinars. The new price of 1 tonne is 7,500 dinars. Regarding other kinds, the current price of 1 tonne is 4,500 dinars. The new price of 1 tonne is 7,000 dinars.

2. Barley: The current price of 1 tonne is 2,500 dinars. The new price of 1 tonne is 4,000 dinars.

The joint meeting of the RCC and the Council of Ministers then discussed the current budget and the investment plan for 1994. In this regard, the leader president stressed commitment to the requirements of the march, which will be crowned with victory, God willing, if the ministries do not confuse the immediate and existing projects and services with medium or long-range goals. His excellency said: What is important is that we should remain effective and manage our resources well in this stage, and that after this stage, new and wide horizons will be opened for us, God willing.

His excellency also explained that the importance of this stage comes from the fact that the evil aggressors have been exposed as boring and illogical before the whole. Therefore, continuing to exert our utmost energy in production; in maintaining machines, equipment, and material; and fighting dissipation will increase the people's patience and steadfastness. Decreasing expenditures in building and operating projects, as well as choosing the least costly ways and alternatives will mean an increase in the Iraqi dinar's value, regardless of the size of the increase. The minister or the manager, who succeeds in reducing the cost of a 1 billion dinar project to 450 million dinars, for example, will feel the sweetness of this result because he, in fact, will have contributed to defending the homeland and the people.

His excellency also stressed the importance of increasing transportation energy this year, as it is important in transporting agricultural crops, industrial products, and workers in all sectors. At the end of the discussions, the meeting endorsed the current budget and the investment plan for 1994. The joint meeting was attended by several technical cadres of the industrial sector.

## 'Aziz Receives PFLP Envoy, Habash Message for Saddam

*JN2201185594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau, has received a message for President Saddam Husayn from Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP].

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the PFLP Political Bureau, conveyed the message when he was received by Tariq 'Aziz today.

The meeting discussed the close brotherly relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolution in Iraq on one hand and the PFLP on the other, as well as developments in the Palestinian arena.

## Al-Sahhaf Confers With Arab League Envoy

*JN2301214894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening received Mr. (Muhaydi al-Muhaydi), chief of the Public Department of Arab Affairs at the Arab League, as an envoy of the Arab League secretary general. They exchanged views on how to consolidate cooperation between the foreign relations (?organizations) and the Arab League to advance Arab interests. The meeting was attended by the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and the head of the Legal Department there.

### Arab League Notified of 17-20 Jan Air 'Violations'

*JN2401101294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (INA)—Iraq has again notified the Arab League of the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for the U.S. British, and French aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace and threaten its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace on 17, 18, 19, and 20 January. After taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the aircraft carried out 202 hostile air sorties.

A list detailing these violations has been attached to the letter.

### Pro-Baghdad Kurdish Party Assails 'Conspiracy'

*JN2301190694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] The [pro-Iraq] Kurdistan Revolutionary Party [KRP] has hailed with deep pride and appreciation leader President Saddam Husayn and his wise and brave leadership of our great Iraqi people. In a statement issued at the end of its Central Committee meeting, the KRP reiterated that it would place all its energy, its masses, and its friends at leader President Saddam Husayn's disposal in defense of the people and the homeland.

In its final statement, the KRP Central Committee denounced the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq, and urged the international community to shoulder its full legal, human, and moral responsibility to lift, immediately and unconditionally, the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The Central Committee condemned the criminal, terrorist, and destructive plan of the foreigner's agents, led by Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani in Kurdistan, stressing support for the Kurdish masses' perpetual struggle and their heroic daily confrontation of the agents of the foreigners. The KRP also stressed its determination to defend Kurdish national rights against slogan traders and brokers of international politics, who have turned the Kurdish cause into a commodity for bargaining and cheap blackmail in order to achieve their evil intentions. It also pledged to defend the homeland and safeguard the achievements and gains, which the 17-30 July revolution has given to the Kurdish people under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, foremost of which is the Autonomous Region law.

The Central Committee emphasized the KRP's solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people to enable them to determine their fate and it denounced the American and the Zionist role in liquidating the Palestine question. It condemned the foreigners' occupation of Somalia, as well as the Egyptian regime's criminal positions against the Egyptian militant popular forces, and stressed the KRP's solidarity with the Yemeni people. It also said in its final statement that the Arab nation has no choice but unity and economic integration to confront all foreign challenges.

The KRP then warned the international community in general and the Arab nation in particular of the serious role U.S. imperialism is playing to control the world economy, and appealed to the international community to work to end the imperialist hegemony over the international organization.

### Opposition Radio Reports Marshlands Resistance

*NC2201173994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] An ambush group belonging to the Islamic resistance forces last week carried out an operation targeted on 'Awdah 'Atwan, a criminal belonging to the regime's intelligence organ. Our sources noted that the operation, which took place in the village of (Abu Hudaydah) in the Governorate of al-'Amarah resulted in the death of the above-mentioned person; his personal weapons were seized. Criminal 'Awdah 'Atwan is known by the residents of Abu Hudaydah and al-'Amarah marshlands as someone who sold his conscience and humanity to tyrant Saddam's regime. In doing so, he committed the ugliest crimes and attacks against innocent citizens. He personally executed three innocent citizens.

Last week, the Islamic resistance forces set up an ambush in one of the sensitive points along the road between the district of al-Majarr and the subdistrict of Nahr 'Udayl in the Governorate of al-'Amarah. Our sources in the south said that the ambushers succeeded in attacking a military vehicle [word indistinct] transporting some regime forces along the above-mentioned road. The attack destroyed the vehicle and killed or injured all those inside it. Our sources noted that the resistance men found identity cards and documents on the bodies of the regime's men proving that the destroyed vehicle belonged to the 1st Company of the 3d Regiment of the 704th Brigade, which is deployed in the marshlands of al-'Amarah.

The Islamic resistance forces returned safely to their bases. It later became clear that the regime had placed its forces in a state of alert and patrolled the road with armored vehicles.

### Weekly: West's 'Meddling' in North Threatens Security

*LD2301110194 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—The meddling of the West in northern Iraq is threatening the security and integrity of Iraq and its neighbors, commented KAYHAN HAVAI.

In its latest issue, the bilingual weekly referred to the crimes committed by Jalal Talebani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) against members of the Islamic movement in northern Iraq.

According to the weekly, the PUK "attacks were seen as an attempt by Talebani, under the aegis of the U.S. and its allies, to squeeze groups who have no sympathy towards his pro-Western approach."

Noting that the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) has remained neutral in the conflict, it said there remains no doubt "about the meddling by U.S., Britain and France whose troops are serving their national interests in Iraq's northern no-fly zone."

It referred to Talebani's Washington visit in 1992 and his talks about establishing an opposition government in the northern no-fly zone.

Stressing that Washington's policy is to get rid of Kurdish groups, it said "the West makes use of Kurds as a leverage to put pressure on Saddam Husayn's government and influence developments in Iraq.

"To any analyst there is an important question unanswered. If there are troops to protect Kurds from attacks by Saddam's army in the northern no-fly zone for humanitarian reasons, why are there no troops to protect Shiite Muslims in marshlands in southern Iraq for the same reason?"

It said that Washington considers Muslims as troublesome and dangerous for America's interests and perhaps for this reason the anti-Iraq alliance abandoned the idea to topple Saddam's regime.

The weekly concluded that there is no accurate evidence to prove that the West supports the establishment of an independent state for Kurds but that their meddling in northern Iraq is threatening the regional security and integrity.

## Rabin Asks al-Asad To Meet 'Anywhere on the Globe'

*TA2301114094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Commenting on Foreign Minister Peres' meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Oslo, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel's insistence that security is a matter of principle is beginning to show results. The prime minister was speaking in Jerusalem to a large group of rabbis from the United States. He said agreement had been reached with the Palestinians on some of the issues, but not on control of the crossing points. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin said Israel and the Palestinians are near an agreement on some of the issues. For example, control of the roads to and from the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. But, there was still no agreement on the border crossing points. He said Israel must retain control of the Jordan bridges to check for arms or explosives and determine who is allowed to pass.

[Rabin] We don't want that influx of Palestinian refugees, a quarter of a million, will cross the passes because it is written in the DOP [Declaration of Principles] that the question of the refugees, that it has to be negotiated once we'll reach negotiations on the permanent solution. It is excluded to be dealt with during the creation of the interim period.

[Katzenell] More than 300,000 Palestinians and other Arabs visit the territories every summer, Rabin said. We welcome them, but we must know when they enter and whether they have left. Otherwise, we shall have a quarter of a million or half a million refugees returning in the interim period, and this is not sanctioned in the Declaration of Principles.

Turning to the negotiations with Syria, Rabin said President al-Asad has not yet clarified what he means by peace; whether he means open borders, diplomatic relations, and encouragement by the two governments of normal relations between the peoples. We do not expect al-Asad to come to Jerusalem as President al-Sadat did, Rabin said, but he has to understand better the way the Israeli people think.

[Rabin] Unfortunately, if you watch the last press conference in Geneva in which the two presidents, Clinton and al-Asad appeared—in the press conference al-Asad didn't do 1 percent of what al-Sadat did in coming to Jerusalem. It was President Clinton that answered Wolf Blitzer, and not President al-Asad.

[Katzenell] Rabin said he has invited al-Asad to Jerusalem 10 times or more. I am willing to meet him in Damascus, in Jerusalem, anywhere on the globe, the prime minister said, without preconditions, except what has already been agreed between us. [end recording]

## Rabin on Talks With Syria, PLO, Border Crossings

*TA2401134594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he has instructed the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria to verify whether both countries were negotiating a peace agreement that would stand alone or one that was linked to another accord on a different track. Rabin noted that the United States believed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was showing signs of moderation and moving closer toward Israel's interpretation of peace. Yet Syria had not changed its position one iota on the price Israel would have to pay in exchange for a peace agreement. The Syrians were demanding a full withdrawal and as far as Damascus was concerned this was non-negotiable.

As for the negotiations with the PLO, Mr. Rabin explained that the PLO had made several attempts to back out of certain issues, mainly in the field of security, that had already been agreed upon in the Declaration of Principles. However, in Rabin's assessment, the Palestinians had realized that Israel was adamant in its position regarding internal and external security. Therefore, Rabin said, one could say that a certain degree of progress had been made recently.

Moving on to the issue of the border crossings, Rabin said that Israel insisted on having the right to examine every person crossing the border in what he called a sterile room, manned exclusively by Israelis. There would be a Palestinian presence at the border terminal, but Israel would be responsible for the passageway between the bridge and the border terminals. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Prime Minister Rabin was speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

## Envoy: Basil al-Asad's Death Not To Affect Talks

*TA2201090894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, told our correspondent Arye Golan that there will be no change in the negotiations with Syria because of Basil al-Asad's death.

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] We are taking part in negotiations with the state of Syria, and people negotiating with Syria should not engage in analyses and speculations about the country's domestic problems. After checking with the State Department, it turns out that as things stand at the moment my Syrian counterpart will report to the talks on Monday [24 January]. For our part, we will report on time, and the negotiations will begin and be conducted as normal.

[Golan] Do you foresee that in the round of talks opening next week we will be called upon to decide on concessions, perhaps very big concessions, regarding the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] No. We know what Syria's demands are. The Syrians want us to make very big concessions. We have indications that in the meeting between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad the Americans were impressed that the Syrians are prepared to meet us halfway on the questions of peace. We have yet to receive from the Syrians direct and authoritative corroboration of this information. We have yet to discuss security and other issues pertaining to these negotiations with the Syrians before we reach the moment where decisions are required on our part. Therefore, we are not talking about a time frame. The resuming negotiations have a crowded agenda, and I believe the diplomacy that preceded them produced enough steam to get the negotiating cart moving. However, it is too early to tell when exactly we will have to start discussing our part of the equation.

[Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich believes no breakthrough was made in the meeting at the White House last night between Jordan's King Husayn and President Bill Clinton.

[Rabinovich] Judging by all appearances, the meeting was routine and, as far as we know, nothing dramatic occurred. Israel's relations with Jordan and the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations have been a long-standing affair, full of meetings and sessions, including many sessions without our attendance in which these negotiations are discussed. I think the Clinton-Husayn meeting should be seen in that light. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 22 January carries an interview with Rabinovich by IDF Radio political correspondent Natan Gutman; the place and date is not given. Rabinovich says Syria should be pleased with Israel's announcement about a referendum on the future of the Golan. In a recorded passage, the ambassador says: "This is the first time that an Israeli Government decides such a move. The Syrians should read this move to mean that the government regards these negotiations and their possibilities very seriously. Were I in their shoes, I would be encouraged that the Israeli Government regards these negotiations and their possibilities so seriousnly."]

## Netanyahu on Objection to U.S. Deployment on Golan

*TA2001070994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jan 94*

[Interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Arye Golan in Washington on 19 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] Asked to explain his objection to the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights, Netanyahu said:

[Netanyahu] The problem in the Golan Heights is that it, unlike the Sinai, requires both defensive forces that can repel a surprise attack by Syria and forces that can forewarn of such an attack. At present, both these tasks are performed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. No one thinks the United States should send divisions to defend us on the Golan, because that would be against the whole Zionist ethos which speaks of national Jewish revival and of a Jewish rather than an alien force defending the Jewish state.

Second, the idea that U.S. soldiers should be deployed in intelligence positions on the Golan is also inapplicable, because the Golan case differs from the Sinai. By handing the forewarning function over to the Americans, we would be creating unnecessary tension and severely trying the U.S.-Israeli relationship needlessly.

[Golan] You do not entirely trust the Americans in this matter?

[Netanyahu] On the contrary, I have great regard for the United States' amity, and I appreciate its willingness to assist Israel, but I do not want to put the United States to tough tests such as that which faced its troops in Beirut, where they were attacked by terrorists, or what is happening to the U.S. troops in Somalia. I see no need or reason for U.S. soldiers to defend Israel.

## Baraq on Golan Withdrawal, U.S. Deployment

*TA2101125094 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jan 94 pp 7, 8, 14*

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Tzvi Timor and Aharon Klein; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] ['AL HAMISHMAR] What did you think of al-Asad's speech in Geneva? Do you think it means progress and a breakthrough, from Israel's viewpoint?

[Baraq] I think the progress is mainly on a symbolic level. A commitment was created by his very uttering of such words while addressing the U.S. President and, later, the entire world in the presence of the U.S. President—with Clinton adding some things. Yet the content was no different from things he has said on previous occasions in various places, including public ones. But I think it was nevertheless an achievement from the point of view of American and Syrian diplomacy.

As for Israel, we have time, and time will show whether a breakthrough did or did not take place. If we learn that al-Asad is prepared to hold pragmatic discussions on the substance of peace and the nature of security arrangements, it will definitely mean progress. If, however, we learn that he is not prepared to hold such a dialogue, we will realize that no progress was achieved and that he may have been merely attempting to make progress vis-a-vis the Americans. Time will show whether that is the situation. In any event, if and when a dialogue is launched, we will keep an unwavering eye on the vital security interests of Israel, which are to remain intact.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] drafting plans for a possible withdrawal? Has the Army prepared any contingency plans?

[Baraq] That is unnecessary at this stage. I have already said once that we are intimately familiar with the Golan Heights and if and when we are required to present our stand, we will be able to do so at any kind of discussion about its future. We must remember that the IDF has no part in the making of such crucial political decisions. It has an interest in and a stand on the security aspects of each decision, and it will present its stand to the cabinet, apprise the Knesset of it, and inform the general public of it in the appropriate fashion.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the IDF capable of defending Israel in any feasible situation, assuming there will be a partial or a full withdrawal?

[Baraq] I say that in our current place and situation, and in the situations we have had to face to date, we need the Golan Heights very much. Every meter, every hill, every ridge and knoll. As long as the current situation remains unchanged, as long as the perils inherent in the current situation remain unchanged—namely, as long as a Syrian attack is still a realistic possibility, even though not tomorrow morning—we need all of the Golan Heights. If the question refers to hypothetical situations, I do not think this is the right time to reply. If a different relationship is established—a relationship of substance rather than a merely technical or formal one—there will be things that can be reconsidered. In any event, I do not believe there will ever be an Israeli Government that will create a situation in which the State of Israel is indefensible.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Should an agreement with Syria include a demand for—or even insistence on—the deployment of U.S. disengagement troops on the Golan Heights or the Hermon?

[Baraq] It is hard to answer this question without knowing what kind of an arrangement we will have. Any peace arrangement with the Syrians must include a very complex system of security arrangements, including demilitarization and early warning, as well as arrangements preventing aggression initiatives in general and surprise attacks in particular. Such a system may allow for a certain involvement of outside elements, either to supervise the arrangement or as part of a joint system of control on both sides. I think discussing this question and the possibility of troops is premature, because any such thing will be the outcome of negotiations, and those have not even been launched, and the outcome of such negotiations depends on what the parties want. It would be wrong to discuss partial components at this time. [passage omitted]

## 'Military Superiority' To Be Demanded in Golan Deal

*TA2301091894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Report by Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] Israel will demand from the United States military superiority along the northern border within the framework of any agreement on a Golan Heights withdrawal, political sources in Jerusalem disclosed at the weekend. Israel will be opposed to strategic parity and will demand means to assure the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] qualitative superiority. Israel will demand demilitarization of the Golan Heights area from which it will pull back, and even beyond that into Syrian territory, but will insist on its demand that there will not be equal footing [last two words in English], which would mean demilitarization of the Upper Galilee.

The framework of the security package Israel will demand will include, as already reported, a demand for early warning stations deep inside the territory to be evacuated, a move which would permit a territorial concession. When Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of delegation to the talks with Syria, meets his Syrian counterpart Muwaffaq al-'Allaf in Washington tomorrow, he will insist on first discussing the security arrangements. [passage omitted]

## Gur Denies Demilitarization Demand

*TA2301095094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Itay Engel and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Engel] We first want to ask you about the report in DEFENSE NEWS, which says that Israel will demand Syrian demilitarization beyond the Golan Heights, right up to Damascus. Are you prepared to confirm or deny the report?

[Gur] All those reports are rubbish. No deliberations have yet been held on that, therefore anybody who quotes us is just making things up.

[Dan] Do you also call rubbish a report we aired this morning that Israel is demanding military superiority and not parity with Syria?

[Gur] Everything reported on Israel's detailed position on the security arrangements in an agreement with the Syrians is complete and utter nonsense.

[Engel] Can you then tell us what instructions the Israeli delegation is receiving on the security aspects?

[Gur] I cannot tell you what instructions they are receiving, but I will tell you that we have not reached the stage of discussing the details of security arrangements, therefore I do not understand how people believe those rumors. The main problem is that the Syrian president has refused to specify how he views the peace, therefore we are not prepared to enter into any negotiations or go into any details on our position until we know what peace we are talking about. That, of course, includes everything that comes under the heading of security arrangements, and I reiterate: everything reported in our name on security arrangements is a figment of the imagination.

[Dan] But what can Israel theoretically demand on security arrangements for the Syrians to return to the Golan?

[Gur] Since I am deputy defense minister, I will not answer theoretical questions, commentators can do that. I can answer questions on policy, which is not dealing with any details of arrangements before we know what type of peace we are discussing.

[Engel] Can you then tell us that there is a political assumption in Jerusalem that without progress along the Israeli-Syrian track there will be no movement with either the Lebanese or the Jordanians?

[Gur] I think that if we take what the king has to say at face value, then to my regret, even if the Jordanians are ready to deal with the small print of the problems facing us—and it has been said more than once that they can be overcome—the king will apparently not want to sign a peace agreement before there is a comprehensive accord, which includes Syria. That, of course, makes progress in relations between the two states more difficult, and does not help our negotiations with the Syrians because what is needed there is a move by the Syrian president, and as much as I try, I find it hard to understand why he cannot say what peace he is talking about with us.

[Dan] A question about the compromise worked out between Peres and 'Arafat in Oslo so that only technological means would be used at the crossing points. Can we really make do with only mechanical, technological means without human intervention as security measures at border crossings?

[Gur] We have to differentiate between two things at the border crossings. One is the bridge crossing. In other words, Israel's overall security is our exclusive responsibility because it was agreed in the first Oslo paper that we are responsible for external security and overall security, therefore everything to do with defending the border against any danger is exclusively Israeli responsibility. The other aspect is to what extent we participate in the searches on people who have passed customs and have entry papers, to assure they have nothing dangerous on them. Technological measures could be used at that stage. I did not attend the latest talks between the foreign minister and 'Arafat. I can only say that no solution was found at the end of last week. If we are drawing closer to a solution, I welcome it.

## General Notes IDF Prepared for Possible 'Limited War'

*TA2301100294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch, said the IDF is prepared for what he called a rupture in the political process, which could lead to a limited war in our region.

In a briefing to military correspondents, Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq said that under the IDF's 1994 work plan, the IDF will maintain the same level of alertness on the Golan Heights as it has had for the past few years. The reduction in the number of Hizballah attacks, Major General Shahaq said, is linked to the political process, in which Syria is participating, and there is no doubt that Syria will continue to use Hizballah according to its political needs, as it has done in previous years.

## Referendum Seen as Fear of U.S.-Syrian Coordination

*TA2101164394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jan 94 p B1*

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Wiped the Smiles Off Their Faces"]

[Text] Some matters become boring to read and talk about just an hour after they are first mentioned. Such is the bombshell about the referendum. It is simply hard to believe that in such a short time, so many people said so many words about this unborn issue. A nonsense issue from beginning to end.

Yitzhaq Rabin does not feel he should ask the people anything, certainly not at this time, for the simple reason that he knows the answer himself. The answer is that he does not even think of surrendering to President al-Asad's unequivocal demand to get back all of the Golan Heights, down to the shores of Lake Tiberias. Not only does this contradict his preelection commitments and his concepts as defense minister, the price al-Asad has named as self- evident is not acceptable to Rabin in any event.

At the end of the "historic summit" day, at midnight on 16 January Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk came knocking at the door of Rabin's Jerusalem home with a smile that, according to an eyewitnesses, was 20-inches long and 10-inches wide. According to the eyewitness, Rabin wiped the smile of their faces in 15 minutes. He complained that the administration had lent its hand to al-Asad's demand on banning Israeli reporters. And how come al-Asad mentioned UN Resolution 425 as applying only to Israel when, according to its own words, it also applies to the Syrian presence in Lebanon?

Regarding the normalization clause, they said happily: We did it. [last three words in English] To which Rabin replied, somewhat disparagingly: You did it. [last three words in English] He meant that Clinton had done al-Asad's work for him. While al-Asad kept a poker face on certain issues, Clinton spoke about them. Rabin was certain the U.S. envoys came to brief him about the new things that al-Asad whispered in Clinton's ear regarding the nature of peace. To his surprise, but mainly to his disappointment, he heard nothing that the Israelis could not have seen on television. The envoys did their best to beautify al-Asad's intentions, providing complex Talmudic interpretations of his vague remarks. Rabin was left with the impression that, speaking on the issue of normalization, al-Asad still uses riddles. Yet, speaking with Clinton, al-Asad was very clear on the nature of withdrawal: No territorial compromise. He wants a withdrawal from every inch. This proves that when he so chooses, al-Asad—sick or not—suffers no problem in articulation.

The two American envoys left the prime minister's home with their wings clipped. Rabin asked them questions they could not answer: Does al-Asad understand that Israel will demand that he drastically cut back the Syrian Army deployment deep to the east of the Golan Heights? Has he agreed to precise mapping of the demilitarization lines combined with long-term dates? Has he realized that he will be asked to rid himself of most of his chemical weapons? President 'Ezer Weizman also deflated the spirits of the two emissaries when they dined with him. "Al-Asad maneuvered Clinton," he told them candidly, adding: "You may tell him that I said so."

Indeed, the impression was created here that Clinton, a novice in foreign affairs, is not too well versed in decoding seemingly innocent utterances. He misinterpreted al-Asad's condition for agreeing to close a deal with Israel as doing it in the framework of a comprehensive peace. This condition means that even if we get off the Golan Heights, there will be no normalization before we sign agreements with Lebanon and Jordan, finalize the status of the territories with the Palestinians, solve the problem of Jerusalem and, who knows, perhaps also make peace with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Ross and Indyk also tried to sell their sweeping interpretation directly to the Israeli public. In an extraordinary move, they met the political correspondents and columnists, and gave interviews to Israeli television stations in an attempt to portray the Geneva summit as an incredible achievement. The impression here, however, is that the only achievement made during the summit was the rapprochement between the United States and Syria, which the two countries have an interest in promoting. Al-Asad shed crocodile tears when, during the press conference, he said that in every Syrian house there is a family mourning a son who fell "to defend Syria." This false presentation of the facts simply cries to high heaven. They fell because of Syria's repeated attempts to destroy the State of Israel; not to mention the 20,000 grieving families of the people slaughtered in Hamah on personal orders from al-Asad. The Syrian president does not feel there is a price for aggression. Just the contrary. He feels he deserves trophies and the royal treatment for failing to destroy Israel. It is also worrying that even the current friendly U.S. Administration wants us in borders that even UN Resolution 242 does not call for.

This new beginning is not encouraging on the eve of the resumption of the Washington talks. Their commitment to the comprehensive settlement already made the Americans invite the Palestinians to the talks. If the negotiations tracks are joined, with Syria leading the way in coordination with the Americans, there is a justifiable fear that the administration might be tempted to pressure Israel to work according to a timetable, with terms set by al-Asad. The referendum affair, therefore, could be perceived not as a brilliant tactic, but as a surface-to-surface missile expressing Rabin's displeasure. The warhead of this missile carries a simple message: I have a mandate for territorial compromise with solid security elements; I would have no mandate nor a majority's support if the issue in question is returning to the 1967 borders—so, let us ask the people. To be sure, Rabin has primarily placed constraints on himself. This shows us that along the long, very long way to peace with Syria, many a smile stands to be wiped off faces.

## Poll: 67 Percent Believe al-Asad Cannot Be Trusted

*TA2301114394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jan 94 p 1*

["YEDI'OT AHARONOT public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute, directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah"]

[Text] In view of the rumors concerning Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's deteriorating health, can Israel count on his commitments?

Twenty eight percent of the interviewees gave an affirmative answer; 67 percent gave a negative answer, and 5 percent did not respond.

The poll, conducted over the weekend, included 506 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the adult population in Israel.

The maximum margin of error is four percent.

## Cabinet Discusses Peace With Syria, Palestinians

*TA2301151994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] This morning's cabinet session was chiefly devoted to a comprehensive briefing by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intelligence elements. At the end of the session, Minister Yosi Sarid said that 1994 may yet turn out to be the most important year in the history of the State of Israel, during which peace agreements will be signed between Israel and all its neighbors. Ministers estimated that the intense political activities might heighten the efforts of terrorist elements to thwart the political process. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports on the political portion of the cabinet session:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The weekly cabinet session ended about an hour ago, and most of it was devoted to a comprehensive political-security briefing by IDF intelligence elements, headed by Chief of Intelligence Major General Uri Sagi. Based on these intelligence assessments, most ministers sounded cautiously optimistic. [passage omitted]

Minister Hayim Ramon believes that some components of the Iranian and Iraqi threat may be neutralized through political action on the Syrian track.

[Ramon] The most significant conventional threat is posed by Syria, of course. That is why it is so important to reach a peace agreement with Syria and extricate it from the circle of war.

[Segal] Turning to more immediate matters, the cabinet discussed the ongoing negotiations with the Arab partners, mainly the Palestinians, and the understandings reached by Peres and 'Arafat in Oslo. Cabinet ministers believe there is a chance for progress, but there are still numerous difficulties on the way to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

[Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer] The prevailing view, to which I fully subscribe, is that sooner or later we will overcome the difficulties and the Israeli-Palestinian agreement will get on the road. This cannot be said of the Syrian track seeing that, as you know, the talks are scheduled to resume tomorrow but because of the death of Hafiz al-Asad's son, Syria is having problems and an agreement may very well be delayed. However, I believe that after one or two sessions we will have enough indications about the seriousness of Syria's intentions. I believe that if he had not had enough reasons, al-Asad would not have met Clinton.

[Segal] Ministers Yosi Sarid and 'Uzi Bar'am asked the prime minister to explain to them why he sent Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur to announce his decision to hold a referendum about the Golan to the Knesset before notifying the cabinet. Rabin noted down their criticism. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 23 January adds that "the IDF intelligence briefings indicated a real Syrian commitment to the continuation of the political process. Several ministers expressed the view that a breakthrough in Israel's relations with Syria should be expected because Damascus was determined to extricate itself from the cycle of war, improve its relations with the United States, and enter a period of calm in the Middle East."]

### Problems With PLO Said 'Very Near' Solution

*TA2401120694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Discussion between political correspondent Shlomo Raz at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and anchor Yisra'el Segal following the Peres-Musa meeting—live]

[Text] [Segal] After his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that a basis has indeed been created for an agreement between Israel and the PLO. Musa's meeting with top Foreign Ministry officials ended a short while ago, and Shlomo Raz reports:

[Raz] I would even take a greater risk than Foreign Minister Peres and state that, in fact, the problems between Israel and the PLO are very near solution. Some work on preparing drafts and formulations will be required, and Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer and the PLO's Abu-al-Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] have begun working on this. At the same time, in Peres upcoming meeting with Yasir 'Arafat next weekend, they will be able to finalize the issues of the procedures at the border crossings and the extent of the withdrawal from Jericho. That means that the first stage of the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho will be completed and, except for a few civilian issues, the implementation of the agreement can begin.

Shim'on Peres, Yosi Beilin, Uri Savir, and others met with Musa. After the meeting, which ended a few minutes ago, Peres was asked whether the agreement is really close:

[Begin Peres recording] I hope so. I believe we have a good opportunity to do this, but it has not happened yet. I would rather be careful and not describe things that have not yet happened as facts. At the same time, a basis was created which, perhaps, allows for the attainment of such an agreement. I believe 'Amr Musa gave us a picture of the way things are viewed on the Egyptian side, which is not much different from the Israeli view. [end recording]

[Raz] When Peres says that things look alike on both the Israeli and the Egyptian sides, he is referring to the fact that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat yesterday. Hence, we can deduce what Musa is basing his optimism on, beyond what he is willing to share with us here.

Earlier today, Musa met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. After that meeting, Musa said he brought a message from President Mubarak to Rabin. This discussion covered the whole range of negotiations with the Arabs but focused mainly on the Israel-PLO talks or, to be more specific, on the issue of the talks on Gaza and Jericho First, which will resume next week in Davos, Switzerland; the Taba talks, which are taking place at this time; the economic talks, which are to resume in Paris; and, naturally, the Washington talks. Musa spoke about the current set of talks:

[Begin Musa recording, in English] There are a set of talks. I hope, I even trust, that they will push forward the Israeli-Palestinian process. I must say that I am not pessimistic. [end recording]

[Raz] Musa says he is not pessimistic regarding this set of talks; however, speaking in closed forums, he said that he is very optimistic. The Egyptian foreign minister is currently having lunch, after which he will depart for Cairo after holding what has become routine meetings between Israeli and Egyptian officials, which stem from the willingness of all the parties to demonstrate that Egypt is playing a special role in the regional processes.

[Segal] Could we perhaps add today's remarks to what Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday about Israel's security stands beginning to yield fruit? Does this mean that they will be accepted?

[Raz] I believe we can say that. In general, the solution of the problem of the bridges and border crossings will be such that the control will, in fact, remain in Israel's hands, but a technical solution is being sought so that Israel's presence at the bridges will not be visible.

[Segal] Electronic means will be used.

[Raz] Electronic and other, perhaps less sophisticated, means that are not visible to the naked eye will be used. A senior Israeli political source called it the invisible man's technique: It sees but is not seen. The parties, therefore, met each other half way. Israel gave in on maintaining a physical presence but not on actual control.

The differences over the Jericho issue have not been bridged yet, but it would seem that the Palestinians are inclined to understand that Israel will not give them corridors to al-Nabi Musa or the Muratas baptism site. They will be allowed to construct a resort on Palestinian-owned lands on the northern shores of the Dead Sea.

## Beilin Foresees Agreement With PLO in 2 Weeks

*TA2301120894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says that any agreement with the Palestinians must ensure Israel's security and defense needs. Beilin told Qol Yisra'el that both Israel and the Palestinians would like to keep to their agreed timetable, and he believes this is possible. He foresees an agreement with the Palestinians within two weeks.

Regarding Syria, Beilin hoped that President al-Asad would not allow the death of his son to interfere with his declared desire to reach a peace settlement during the coming year.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 23 January carries a live interview with Beilin, in which he is asked whether Israel can sign an agreement with Syria without knowing what its future regime holds for us. Beilin responds: "We rely on ourselves. That has always been our answer, regardless of whether we are signing an agreement with al-Sadat, 'Arafat, or any other leader. We are not disbanding our security forces, and we will make arrangements which contain sufficient guarantees so that even if there is a change in regime it will not affect us."]

## IDF Sources: Withdrawal by Mid-Apr Impossible

*TA2301120494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jan 94 p 6*

[Report by military correspondent Arye Kiesel]

[Text] A senior military source this weekend admitted that in the framework of the current timetable "it will be impossible to complete the Gaza-Jericho withdrawal plan by mid-April in accordance with the original plan."

The source added: "It is possible that we will need one or two more months to transfer the territory to the Palestinians smoothly."

Meanwhile the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing to prepare for the withdrawal. Many reserve units have recently received call-up notices for February and March to implement "rainbow" plan—the Gaza-Jericho withdrawal and redeployment plan.

IDF sources say: "We are continuing with the redeployment without any connection to the political negotiations. We want to attain a situation wherein we will be able to efficiently implement any political plan on short notice."

The military source confirmed that the IDF has sent call-up notices to transport, supplies, and other logistic units. He explained, however, that the implementation of the plan is dependent on the political echelon's approval.

The IDF has also completed its preparations for the release of more than 3,000 Palestinian prisoners in case a significant breakthrough is made on the Palestinian track. Among those slated to be released are sick and elderly prisoners, women, and prisoners who are not members of rejectionist front organizations and "who do not have blood on their hands."

The Finance Ministry has approved an allocation of 350 million shekels for IDF redeployment following its withdrawal.

## Shahaq Sees 'No Major Changes' in IDF Size in '94

*TA2301122494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] The deputy chief of staff, Major General Amnon Shahaq, says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will make no major changes in its order of battle this year in spite of the peace process and Israel's improving political and economic situation. The continuing arms build-up among Arab countries, the spread of Islamic fundamentalism, and an anticipated increase in terrorist activity require Israel to maintain its strength and alertness, says Shahaq.

The deputy chief of staff was speaking at a meeting this morning with military reporters, where he reviewed the IDF's plans for 1994. With more, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

Taking an overall look at Israel's strategic situation, the IDF sees three positive trends in three major areas for concern. On the plus side, the peace process continues, Israel's international standing and relations with other countries are getting better all the time, and the country's economic situation is steadily improving. Against this, a wary eye needs to be kept on the continuing arms build-up of Iran and Arab countries, especially with regard to nonconventional weapons. The spread of Islamic fundamentalism and the likelihood of increased terrorist activity are dangers to be addressed.

For the time being, then, the IDF will keep both eyes open and its powder dry. No significant changes will be made in its order of battle this year, and all branches of the armed forces will acquire sophisticated new weaponry and equipment. This will include planes and helicopters for the Air Force, antimissile systems for the Air Force and the Navy, the first of the Saar 5 type missile boats which are now under construction, and improved tanks, armored personnel carriers, and advanced artillery guns and rocket launchers for the Army. The emphasis will be to widen even further the all-weather and around-the-clock fighting capabilities of all three branches.

In addition to the training programs and exercises for the IDF's standing forces, training of reserve forces—which has been erratic in recent years due to budgetary restraints and operational duties in the territories—this would be stepped up and put on a more even keel. At the same time, reservists are likely to find themselves being called up for duty much less, although those in combat units will continue to bear the brunt of reserve service.

Antiterrorist activity and maintaining the security along Israel's border with Lebanon will continue to play a major role in the Army's day-to-day operations. Guerrilla and terrorist operations by Palestinian and Lebanese groups doubled in southern Lebanon last year, compared with 1992. There were 330 hostile acts of one sort or another, compared with 170 the previous year, with Hizballah well ahead of other groups in attacks of one sort or another against the IDF and the South Lebanon Army. The forecast is for increased terrorist activity in the year ahead, both from Lebanon and also in the territories.

## Defense Sources: U.S. To Be Less Able To Meet Needs

*TA2301170294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Summing up 1993, defense establishment officials assessed that even after implementing the new arrangements in the territories, continuing instability and internal rivalries among the Palestinians may hinder efforts to reduce terrorism.

According defense sources assessments, the opponents of the peace agreement, especially members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], will continue to attempt to obstruct the political process. The security sources noted that there had been an improvement in Israel's strategic situation and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] enjoyed clear superiority over its main foe, Syria. Damascus, nevertheless, had not abandoned the military option, and even if the peace process continued to progress at the present rate this could not guarantee that the Arab armies would either cut back in size or halt their military buildup.

As for Israel's relations with the United States, the sources explained that in future, domestic economic problems may have a detrimental effect on Washington's readiness to rapidly meet Israel's needs.

## Defense Sources View Regional Arms Race

*TA2301191594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Defense establishment sources said that Russia and eastern European countries are continuing to supply arms to the Middle East in order to earn foreign currency. According to the sources, the arms race would continue in the long run because there were cheap weapon stockpiles in eastern Europe and Russia. Additional countries, such as China and North Korea, had also begun selling arms to the region. The sources noted that increasing pressure from Western arms industries to produce weapons would lead to a continuation of the arms race. These trends would effect the scope of the threats that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would have to face over the coming years.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to the defense sources, Iraq remained in regional and international isolation and the efforts to supervise its nuclear capabilities continued. Iran was purchasing weapon systems and submarines and rapidly emerging as the main danger to the region. The Persian Gulf, the sources explained, would remain a source of instability and it could be safely assumed that Saddam Husayn's behavior would remain a constant cause of tension.

It was also reported that approximately 25 percent of the IDF's budget last year was earmarked for its military buildup, approximately 25 percent was spent on training, 10 percent on operational activities, with the remaining 40 percent going to maintenance and wages.

Last year, the Intelligence Branch focused on improving early warning capabilities, pinpointing threats, and coping with long-range challenges. The Intelligence Branch invested great efforts in supplying all the information needed for the political process.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 23 January carries a report by Yariv Ben-Yehuda about a briefing to military correspondents by Major General

Amnon Shahaq and Major General 'Uzi Dayan, respectively the deputy chief of staff and the head of the IDF's Planning Branch. Referring to the IDF's work plan for 1994, Shahaq is quoted as saying that the plan "does not foresee changes in the deployment of the troops on the Golan Heights," and that "the entire security budget totals 20.24 billion shekels."]

## Peres, Shahal Meet Qatari Minister on Gas Deal

*TA2301190194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik report]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal met today in London for several hours with the energy minister of Qatar. The meeting was designed to promote a huge deal to export gas from Qatar to Israel and Europe. The future of the deal remains unclear. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik is in the Tel Aviv studio with further details:

Shim'on Peres arrived in London from Oslo this morning, Moshe Shahal flew from Israel. They apparently met at the Hilton Park Lane Hotel in central London and from there set out for a meeting with the Qatari foreign minister and several of his advisers. The reason for their meeting: a gigantic transaction worth over $1 billion. Qatar has natural gas which it is considering shipping in containers through the Red Sea to a special port which may or may not be constructed in Elat. From there the gas will travel through pipelines at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The economic viability of all this, at least as far as Israel is concerned, is extremely doubtful. Natural gas can also be purchased from Egypt. The discussions in London were not about the deal itself, but only about the possibility of conducting feasibility studies to decide whether or not doing it is economically worthwhile.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has recently held a series of meetings on this matter, both within Israel and abroad. Shim'on Peres entered the picture because this deal may constitute, among other things, the first practical fruit of the peace process. But, to an even greater extent, Peres is getting involved with the aim of using this deal as a first-ever lever to promote further initiatives between Israel and the Arab world.

## King Discusses Peace, Geneva Summit With Clinton

### Calls Recent Moves 'Encouraging'

*JN2101191694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] The Jordanian-U.S. summit ended in Washington a short time ago. His Majesty King Husayn represented the Jordanian side and President Bill Clinton led the U.S. side. During their meeting, they discussed the most recent developments in the peace process and the Syrian-U.S. summit held in Geneva on Sunday between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. The talks also addressed several issues, including bilateral, political, and economic ties.

His Majesty King Husayn responded to questions posed by reporters on various regional issues and developments in the peace process.

In response to a question on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, His Majesty King Husayn said:

[Begin King Husayn recording, in English] I believe that it is very, very well, and recent developments are increasingly encouraging. As far as coordinating with the Palestinian dimension and our Palestinian brethren, we are doing whatever we can. And it is all part of the complete scene. Everyone, I believe, is...[pauses] the majority of people are convinced that this is the time, and that we must move rapidly towards the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. We are working on our agenda, and all the items there and I hope that the crowwning achievement will be a peace treaty. [end recording]

### Further on Meeting

*JN2201074194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton received His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur at the White House yesterday evening. Afterward, the two leaders held a closed meeting, which was followed by an expanded meeting attended by several officials on both sides.

The conferees reviewed various regional and international issues and his majesty gave a detailed explanation of Jordan's position on the peace process, particularly concerning the recent developments of this process. He affirmed Jordan's commitment to achieving a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the region in accordance with the formula of the Madrid conference based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

They also discussed various aspects of relations between the two friendly countries and the need to consolidate these relations in order to reach the highest levels of cooperation in various fields.

In welcoming His Majesty King Husayn to the United States, the U.S. President stressed the deep historic relations between the two countries, and appreciated his majesty's continued efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. President also commended the Jordanian democratic march and expressed appreciation for his majesty's efforts to entrench and enhance it. He referred to the great efforts he personally is making to reduce Jordan's economic difficulties and to help Jordan overcome these difficulties—the foremost being its foreign indebtedness—by supporting the Jordanian economy.

President Clinton affirmed U.S. interest in supporting and promoting the Jordanian Armed Forces, and stressed his appreciation of Jordan's prominent role in maintaining security and stability in the Middle East.

Accompanying his majesty at the meeting were Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty's political adviser; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty's military secretary; and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by Vice President Al Gore, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and a number of White House and State Department officials.

Mrs. Hilary Clinton also received Her Majesty Queen Nur at the White House. They exchanged views on several issues of common interest.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore hosted a dinner banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur yesterday evening.

### King Meets With Vice President Gore

*JN2201170994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] On the second day of his visit to Washington, His Majesty King Husayn met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. During the meeting, they discussed the friendly bilateral relations and the need to enhance them to reach the highest levels of cooperation in all fields.

The U.S. vice president welcomed His Majesty King Husayn to the United States, stressing the deep historical relations between the two countries. He also praised his majesty's ceaseless efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

For his part, U.S. President Clinton praised Jordan's democratic march and appreciated his majesty's efforts to support and entrench this march.

The U.S. vice president and his wife hosted a dinner banquet yesterday evening in the honor of His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur.

## King Husayn Gives Interview on CNN Program

*JN2301080294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 94 pp 1, 5*

["Transcript" of King Husayn's interview on CNN's "Evans and Novak" program conducted in Washington; broadcast on 22 January]

[Text] Q: Do you think President Clinton and the United States ought to take a more active role in trying to resolve this impasse over the West Bank, Jericho and Gaza that 'Arafat is having with Israel?

A: I believe that the United States is already taking a very active role in trying to bring about peace in the region. And I hope that we'll see some results soon.

Q: But, Your Majesty, our secretary of state, Mr. Christopher, has just recently said in Oslo, where he went to the funeral of the foreign minister of Norway, that this is not the U.S. role. This is the role of Israel and the Palestinians. Do you agree with that? Shouldn't the U.S. do more, sir? And did you not advise the president to do more when you saw him on Friday [21 January]?

A: Obviously the United States is a very important element in helping parties in the region arrive at peace. But in terms of the Oslo agreement, it was an agreement reached between Israel and the PLO and the Palestinians. And I really hope that they can work out all the details that are needed with the help and support of the United States, and all of us, in fact.

Q: But you don't want President Clinton and the State Department to do any more in an effort to push this process ahead than they're doing now. Is that what you're telling us, sir?

A: What I'd like is exactly the opposite. I'd like continued interest and concern and the spirit of a partnership to continue to exist and manifest itself in the difficult times ahead at this year [as published], very crucial moment.

Q: Your Majesty, Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the PLO, has come in for some criticism on the way he has conducted the negotiations with the Israelis. Do you personally have confidence in Mr. 'Arafat?

A: I think that this is up to the Palestinians to decide, his Palestinian constituency. But I have tried to advise him, to the best of my ability, to try to realise that he has a changed role now. He represents Palestinains both in the occupied territories and in the diaspora. They should all be a part of the coming phase in terms of their views and feelings, particularly those who have endured 26 years of occupation; and at the same time, hopefully that we'll be able to delegate responsibility so that people are able to see progress and movement in dealing with the many problems that should be addressed, particularly when withdrawal begins. There has to be immediately a qualitative change in the lives of people that means the beginning of peace.

Q: Do you think he has taken that advice that he should alter and change his role?

A: I believe that essentially this is what he has heard from me in the frankest possible way. He has also heard it from and is hearing it from many friends of Palestine, the Palestinian cause, and Palestinians themselves.

Q: There have been published reports that many Arab leaders are unhappy with Yasir 'Arafat for demanding Palestinian independence. Do you share that point of view?

A: No, I don't share that point of view at all. I believe that it is the right of the Palestinians to decide what their future fate should be and that is a achoice, as far as we are concerned in Jordan, that was made in 1974 at the Rabat Arab Summit when all the Arab states supported Palestinians and recognising the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. And we accepted that and have supported it ever since.

Q: One last question on that point, sir. It's been reported that you had issued a virtual ultimatum to Yasir 'Arafat, saying that he should be more conciliatory, more cooperative in the negotiations. Is that true?

A: We have had recently some very frank exchanges, and I hope that they have helped. Certainly they have helped in getting us to a point where we have agreement on a number of essential elements regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations and our role in helping the people in the occupied territories regarding banks, for example, that are in the open.

Q: Your Majesty, the foreign minister of Syria, Mr. al-Shara', journeyed to Amman, the capital of Jordan, in the last few days to report on his meeting, on President al-Asad's meeting with President Clinton, to your brother Crown Prince Hasan. Tell us, sir, what did the two presidents agree to?

A: I have the impression that the meeting went very, very well, that there were very frank talks. And I believe that the Syrian position has been made clear by President al-Asad in the terms of a real desire and commitment to the cause of a just, durable peace, a comprehensive peace; but also that Syria is prepared to ratify a peace treaty when it recovers its lost territory and when that problem is solved.

Q: Well, do you think it surprising, in view of what you just said, that the Israeli government, from Prime Minister Rabin on down, has been very, very cautious in assessing the Clinton-al-Asad meeting in Geneva? They don't seem very impressed.

A: I believe that the results of the meeting were very encouraging. This is what I've heard from President al-Asad. I'd spoken to him before and I have heard from him since, and also from President Clinton, whom I had the pleasure of meeting a short while ago.

Q: So can you tell us, sir, that you would expect some kind of beginning of serious negotiations for Israel to get off the Golan Heights and for Syria to give Israel true peace in the next few weeks?"

A: I hope that this would be the case.

Q: Hope. But what's your prediction?

A: I don't have all the details, but I believe that negotiations are going to begin very, very shortly. And I think they will be at much more serious and determined level.

Q: Just one more on that, Your Majesty. Are you convinced that Israel, in fact, will withdraw from the Golan Heights entirely? Are you convinced of that, sir?

A: I know that the Golan Heights are of a Syrian territory. And obviously the question is territory for peace. That's part of 242. But beyond that, how it will be worked out is something for the negotiators, I believe, to ascertain.

Q: You met on Friday with President Clinton. You have been critical in the past of some American Presidents for tilting too much toward israel. How do you assess President Clinton in that regard?

A: I am most impressed. I believe that he is a genuine person. He has already got at the tips of his hands all the information regarding the area. He has studied. He's looked into all the problems, the different points of view. And I believe that he is determined to do whatever he can, together with the United States, to help bring about a just, honourable, lasting peace in our region.

Q: Do you think he has a mindset that is even-handed as between the Arab side and the israeli side?

A: I believe he has great integrity and he's able to see the different views. And the challenge, I suppose, is to try to reconcile them in the times ahead.

Q: Continuing to look at the overview, sir, is this a—have the Arabs and the Israelis embarked on an irreversible procedure toward peace, or are we at a critical phase now that it could go either way, in your opinion?

A: As far as I am concerned, I am totally committed for it to going one way, and that is the way towardes peace. I think that if it goes any other way, it would be the end for the entire region.

Q: It would be a disaster?

A: It would be a disaster.

Q: Well, let me ask you this, Your Majesty. If the PLO-Israeli talks cannot get back on track and there can't be a deal on Jericho and Gaza and the beginnings of Palestinian independence, will you sign a treaty with Israel, between Jordan and Israel? Can you wait forever for the Palestinians?

A: Sir, we started at the same point in time. We started at Madrid; we, the Palestinians and all the other parties to the conflict. Later on, Oslo saw the Palestinians move ahead and assume their own responsibilities regarding their rights on their soil. We supported that. We ratified the agenda. So we are moving on our own, really. We are looking at this agenda and we hope that we will cover all the items there.

We have a difference, I believe, with Israel in the fact that we have been invited to ratify a peace treaty. We would like to see what that peace treaty contains, and we would like to work up from the issues that are there to have the crowning achievement be the peace treaty. When we are ready and when our efforts are successful and completed, I believe we would have peace.

Q: Would you say to us, sir, there is no chance of Jordan ever signing a separate peace treaty with Israel under any conditions if the negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza are unsuccessful?

A: I certainly hope they will be successful, and I certainly hope at the same time that we will be able to cover the Jordanian-Israeli differences and problems that beset both sides. And obviously there is a dimension that links us to the Palestinian- Israeli effort at this stage. I hope things will move, and I'm sure they will move.

Q: Your Majesty, excuse me. It is impossible that you would sign a treaty with Israel without progress and some kind of a solution on the West Bank. Is that what you're telling us?

A: Let me put it another way. I believe that a solution is coming, and I believe that we will ratify a peace treaty probably at the end of this year or maybe next year.

Q: Your Majesty, one of the low points, perhaps the lowest points in the long and friendly relationship between your Kingdom and the United States, came during the Gulf war. Do you feel now that the United States should take a more positive attitude in trying to make peace with Iraq and Saddam Husayn, or do you think that's impossible?

A: I wouldn't care to comment on this particular problem. I certainly have worried and have been very, very deeply concerned about the fate of the people of Iraq so far in their suffering that grows. But I'm sure this problem will be resolved.

Q: Are you ever in touch with Saddam Husayn?

A: I haven't been in touch recently.

Q: One other point, Your Majesty. The Iranian government has sent a very large diplomatic mission to your country, to Amman, the capital of Jordan. it's headed by an ambassador who was active in the takeover of the U.S. embassy in 1979 and who, I am told, participated in the planning of the attack on the U.S. embassy in Beirut. is there any chance sir, as I'm told, that you would like that mission from Iran reduced because the fundamentalists who occupy that embassy are not for peace, they are against peace?

A: Nothing has happened in that direction so far. And the ambassador is in Jordan and he's behaving as an ambassador should so far. But we are watching, obviously, the dimension of our relations with Iran. We would have liked them to be based on an agreement, clear at the highest levels as to where the green lines are, where the red lines are, where our differences are. And I hope that this will come at some point. But in the meantime, we will not permit our country to be jeopardised in terms of its internal sovereignty.

Q: Are they agitating?

A: I don't think they are at the moment. We haven't seen anything that would suggest that.

Q: Your Majesty, the United States secretary of commerce, Ron Brown, was in Cairo on Thursday and he said the following: "The Arab Boycott of Israel is coming apart." Do you agree with that?

A: I think inevitably it will come about in te context of progress towards achieving peace. But there are several areas that have to be covered. If you talk about, for example, Jordan and Israel, we have to work out a balance in terms of our trade and our—they have a protectionist approach towards their products. [sentence as published] They have denied us the chance that they would wish for their products to come into our area. All these things have to be worked out, particularly with regard to the Palestinian dimension. But regarding foreign companies operating in the area, I think that is changing and altering in the right direction.

Q: Do you think that progress can be made there before an agreement, peace agreements are signed?

A: Regarding outside companies?

Q: Yes.

A: I believe it's happening gradually.

Q: Your Majesty—excuse me, sir. Your Majesty, B.B. Netanyahu, the head of the Likud party, was in Washington this past week and made the statement that if he were prime minister, he would not return one inch of land on the Golan Heights to Syria. Would you tell us sir, do you think a switch in party control in Israel would endanger the peace process?

A: If this is their approach, obviously it would.

Q: It would.

A: It would yes.

Q: Could you amplify that, sir?

A: Well, then it would mean that a very serious obstacle would be placed in the path of peace. And what we are searching for is a comprehensive peace in the region, which includes Syria, lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinian dimension, Israel, together with everyone else.

Q: And Prime Minister Rabin's immediate political future depends on success, doesn't it?

A: I believe that.

## Al-Majali on Husayn Washington Talks, Arab Coordination

*JN2301103194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Doha, 23 Jan (WAKH)—Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that Jordan has reiterated to U.S. President Bill Clinton its position on the peace process, which is based on the need to achieve comprehensive, just, and durable peace on the basis of the Madrid conference formula, which is grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-RAYAH published here today, al-Majali, who is accompanying King Husayn on the latter's current visit to Washington, indicated that there is Jordanian-Syrian coordination on the peace process. He added that Jordan is also coordinating with the other Arab sides on this issue.

In reply to a question, Dr. al-Majali expressed full satisfaction with the the economic agreement recently signed between Jordan and the PLO, saying: "This agreement is realistic. It will yield immediate benefits to the Palestinian side."

### Terms U.S. Role in Talks 'Effective'

*JN2301154394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has said that during his visit to Washington His Majesty King Husayn discussed with the U.S. Administration all aspects and tracks of the peace process.

Al-Majali said his majesty emphasized Jordan's commitment to the principle of a comprehensive lasting, and just solution on the basis of UN resolutions.

In a telephone interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH in Washington, al-Majali said consultation between Jordan, Syria, and the other Arab parties is based on the comprehensive nature of the solution and the realization of peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The prime minister described the U.S. role in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations as effective and positive, pointing out that the U.S. Administration, led by President Clinton, is playing the role of an honest broker between the Arabs and Israel.

On the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Dr. al-Majali expressed full satisfaction with what has been reached, pointing out that coordination between the two sides is continuing in all fields.

As for Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, the prime minister said Jordan is honestly and sincerely seeking the best possible relations with all Arab countries, especially the brothers in the Arab Gulf states.

The prime minister welcomed the agreement reached on resolving the political crisis in Yemen, pointing out the Jordanian pan-Arab constants in the Arab political action.

## Editorial on 'Opportunity' Presented by U.S. Summit

*JN2201115794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jan 94 pp 1, 20*

[Editorial: "Our Constant Political Principles for a Just and Comprehensive Peace"]

[Text] After his meeting with U.S. President Clinton at the White House yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn was eager to stress Jordan's support for all efforts being made to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East. His majesty also stressed the call to achieve this objective quickly.

The Jordanian-U.S. summit was a great opportunity to exchange views on developments of the Middle East peace process and the results of the contacts and meetings held to promote this process, including the recent Syrian-U.S. meeting in Geneva, in order to plan for the next move in the upcoming bilateral talks aimed at achieving a peace that would secure the Arab rights and entrench the bases of security, stability, and cooperation in this turbulent region.

Now that efforts are focusing on achieving the real objectives of the peace process, laxity in the negotiations and removing them from their true course would create more obstacles and complications that might waste this precious opportunity and push the entire region back into a whirlpool of endless conflict. The repercussions and threats of such a conflict would undermine regional and world security.

Thus, King Husayn was eager to stress the importance of gaining time and speeding up the peace steps and translating them into realities on the ground, based on international legitimacy and its resolutions in a way that will secure a comprehensive and just peace that would return the occupied territories and the usurped rights to their owners in addition to establishing an equitable, balanced, and fair political and economic order throughout the Middle East.

With regard to the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, his majesty's emphasis on this positive coordination as part of a comprehensive peace embodied the continued Jordanian support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, the PLO, to regain their territories, rights, and sovereignty.

The real desire for peace according to the principles and terms of reference of the Madrid conference, which His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad stressed in their meetings with President Clinton, as well as the Arab parties' response to the bases of such a peace, with all its political, economic, and legitimate dimensions, would both place the United States before its moral and political responsibilities to promote the peace process and remove it from the procrastinations and deviation which Israel employs in each phase of negotiations and on all tracks. Such procrastination, however, has not yet succeeded in foiling the peace process or pushing it to a deadlock. Israel wants such a deadlock, but the United States has thus far ignored this.

## U.S. Urged To Change Stands, 'Compensate' Country

*JN1901173494 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 19 Jan 94 p 15*

[Editorial: "In Order To Change Arab View of U.S. Strength"]

[Text] With the approach of the Jordanian-U.S. summit, which was described by the prime minister as important in terms of its timing and its implications, we would like to remind the U.S. Administration of the reasons for the way the Jordanian people and the Arab peoples view the United States, despite the distance that separates us. Over the past few decades, U.S. policy has dealt with us through Israel's viewpoint and backed aggression from which we are still suffering. Whenever we try to show our admiration for the U.S. Administration's interest in human rights and its rejection of violence and terrorism, we find out that it is still far from being fair in the way it takes an interest in these rights and in the way it defines violence and terrorism.

Instead of being a source of inspiration for many peoples to promote the principles of freedom on which its first revolution was founded the United States has become, in the view of many peoples, as well as our Arab people in particular, an example of a dominating force supporting the killer against the victim.

Today, as the United States calls for bringing about peace and stability in our region, it is expected to prove that it really wants such a fair, comprehensive, and lasting peace. However, we reaffirm that the current image is not impossible to change, particularly if the United States eliminates the reasons behind this image by getting Israel to change its negotiating position on peace, which will not succeed unless it is just and comprehensive, and by ending Jordan's suffering and the blockade, which is deeply affecting Jordan and its people and which is harming the fraternal Iraqi people following the Gulf crisis, as the U.S. Administration knows well.

Jordan, severely harmed by the region's events since the establishment of Israel, expects the United States to turn over a new leaf and compensate Jordan for all its burdens and the damage caused to it over decades of crises and conflict, in which the United States was biased in violation of its declared principles of freedom, human rights, and the need for security and stability. We hope that this superpower will not remain a captive of its own power isolated from the human dimension, without which power means tyranny and cannot be beautified in the eyes of nations, regardless of its size.

### Information Minister Says 'Solution' for Peace Close

*JN2201202494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has said that the Jordanian-U.S. summit and the Syrian-U.S. summit have achieved progress for the Middle East peace process. He added: We are close to a final solution.

In an interview with the Voice of the Arabs Radio today, he added: This does not mean that we will reach specific results tomorrow or the day after.

He stressed the importance of the West's understanding that security in the Middle East is not only important to Israel but that the Arabs also have security requirements. He said the Jordanian- U.S. summit between His Majesty King Husayn and President Bill Clinton focused on the means to activate the peace process in the Middle East on various tracks to arrive at a just, comprehensive peace.

### Foreign Ministry Asks Iran To Reduce Embassy Staff

*PM2101181494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jan 94 p 1*

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Jordan Confirms Its Request To Reduce Number of Iranian Diplomats"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Official Jordanian sources yesterday confirmed Jordan's request to Iran to reduce the number of its diplomats in Amman in the wake of the attack on the house of Jordanian Ambassador to Tehran Yasin Istanbuli.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, had summoned the Iranian ambassador and informed him of the Jordanian request to reduce the number of Iranian diplomats at the embassy as a result of the attack on the Jordanian ambassador's house some two months ago. The sources pointed out that among the other reasons for the Jordanian request is that the number of Iranian diplomats in Amman "exceeds by far the number of Jordanian diplomats in Tehran."

Well-informed sources have said that there are more than 30 Iranian diplomats in Amman, compared with three Jordanian diplomats in Tehran. It was not possible to learn the name of the Iranian ambassador in Amman. When AL-HAYAH contacted the embassy, the employee on duty told AL-HAYAH to contact the embassy again on Saturday because he did not have the authority to reveal the ambassador's name. The authoritative sources said that the Jordanian Government "was not satisfied with the way Iranian authorities handled the attack on the Jordanian ambassador's house." They pointed out that the ambassador's house in Tehran was burgled two months ago. The sources also emphasized that Jordan has been seeking to improve relations with Iran since diplomatic relations were restored in 1991, 10 years after their severance following the breakout of the Iraq-Iran war. [passage omitted]

### Request Said Aimed at Seeking Balance

*JN2201094794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p 1*

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that the Jordanian Foreign Ministry has asked the Iranian Foreign Ministry to reduce the number of its diplomats in the Iranian Embassy in Amman.

There are more than 35 diplomats in the Iranian Embassy in Amman, while the Jordanian Embassy staff in Tehran numbers no more than three.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry's request, which aims at creating a balance between the two countries' diplomatic missions, will not affect the existing fraternal relations.

### Source Denies Troops To Be Sent to Yemen

*JN2401110594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 23-24 Jan 94 p 1*

[Text] An informed Jordanian source yesterday denied reports that Jordanian forces will be sent to Yemen in the coming weeks. The source said these reports are groundless.

The source added that Jordan is primarily interested in the perpetuation of security and stability in fraternal Yemen and is eager to seek an appropriate negotiated solution to the Yemeni crisis within the framework of dialogue and understanding among the Yemeni leaders.

The source emphasized that the Jordanian Arab Army will not hesitate to come to the brothers assistance if needed; that it is an army for all Arabs, and that it works only for Arabs interests. The source said: The issue at hand is that the Yemeni leaders have asked the Jordanian Arab Army's general command to offer its expertise and advice within the framework of a comprehensive plan to reorganize the Yemeni Army's units. Thus, during Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's visit to Yemen last Monday, Staff Major General 'Id Kamil al-Rawdan, assistant chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Operations and Training, accompanied al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to study the Yemeni plan in this respect.

## Official Denies Security Accord Signed With PLO

*JN2201105994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 94 pp 1, 20*

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has denied that Jordan has signed any accord with the PLO other than the economic accord which was signed on 7 January. This statement, which he made to SAWT AL-SHA'B, is contrary to what was reported by news agencies and some papers that a security accord was recently signed between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin and a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said—in a telephone interview SAWT AL-SHA'B conducted with him in Tunis—that the Palestinian leadership had discussed the draft security accord prepared by the territory, border, and security committee, which is considered one of the most important committees of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee and which was formed before the Palestinian-Israeli accord was signed. He added that the Palestinian leadership sent the draft security accord to Major General Fahkri Shaqquraq, chief of Palestinian intelligence, who is currently in Amman. [passage omitted]

## King Husayn Sends Condolences to Syria's al-Asad

*JN2101202694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] His majesty the king sent a letter of condolence to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad over the death of his son Basil.

The king expressed his deep sorrow and said that only the long distance has prevented him from being with President al-Asad to share with him his pain and the loss of his son.

### Crown Prince Calls al-Asad

*JN2101195494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today called his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic. During the telephone conversation with President al-Asad, his royal highness expressed, in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian Government and people, his most heartfelt condolences on the death of the president's son, the late Major Basil al-Asad.

His royal highness said the sorrow of brother President al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people is the sorrow of us all. His royal highness beseeched God to bestow gracious patience and solace on His Excellency President al-Asad and his noble family, which have suffered this horrible tragedy.

## Al-Hirawi Phones Condolences to Syria's al-Asad

*NC2101174094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to convey the sadness felt by the Lebanese when they heard about the painful martyrdom of Staff Major Basil al-Asad. The two presidents cried as they exchanged sympathies. President al- Hirawi will attend the funeral in al-Qardahah tomorrow.

The General Directorate of the Lebanese Presidency has issued the following statement: Joining his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian Arab people in their painful tragedy that surprised us all, President Ilyas al-Hirawi is canceling his commitments for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. May God bestow mercy on the deceased, Staff Major Basil al-Asad, and grant patience and solace to President Hafiz al-Asad and his family.

## Officials Leave To Attend Basil al-Asad's Funeral

*NC2201095294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] At 1030 today President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri—together with a large number of ministers; deputies; and political, spiritual, economic, military, and trade union figures—left Beirut for Syria on board three aircraft to attend the funeral of Major Basil al-Asad.

### Delegation Returns

*NC2201203294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening after taking part in the funeral ceremony of the Syrian president's son, Staff Major Basil al-Asad. The three leaders plus a large number of ministers, deputies, religious and political figures, and popular delegations shared with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian leadership, and the Syrian people their sadness and pain over the loss of Staff Major Basil al-Asad.

## Head Negotiator Comments on Peace Talks

*NC2101141794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the delegation to the Washington peace talks, left Beirut today for Washington to participate in the meeting of the heads of delegations on Monday. Before his departure he said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] You are leaving today for Washington to take part in the 12th round of peace talks. What can you say about the Lebanese file you are taking with you to these talks?

[Shammas] Before answering this question, I would like to say why I am going to Washington. After consultations with the United States and Russia in their capacity as cosponsors of the peace conference that was launched in Madrid, Lebanon yesterday received through the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon an invitation to attend negotiations that will resume on 24 January at the level of delegation heads. On this basis, I am leaving Beirut today for Washington provided with a unified Lebanese political decision made with the information available to the government and after thorough coordination, which is natural, between Lebanon and Syria. This coordination was capped two days ago with the expanded summit in Damascus. I am going to Washington carrying the Lebanese people's aspirations and desire for an honorable peace that will safeguard Lebanese rights and bring about peace and security in the region based on a comprehensive solution and justice. The concept of a comprehensive solution was established and confirmed at the summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. In addition, a positive climate has been generated by this summit that we can use to push the peace process forward.

[Reporter] The Israeli response is still unclear, as President al-Asad, who paved the way for a fair and comprehensive peace, has said. How can you interpret this?

[Shammas] In fact, President al-Asad was extremely candid. He has committed himself to the peace process and answered every question with complete clarity. He declared Syria's sure commitment to the peace process and his desire for a genuine peace. He elaborated on the elements of peace, which I do not want to repeat. All I would like to say is that his clarity was sufficient and the topics he dealt with were clear and so the ball is now in the Israeli court. The Israeli prime minister, who on several occasions voiced his desire for peace, has to take the necessary steps within the framework of the one clarified at the joint news conference held by Presidents Clinton and al-Asad. I do not want to comment further on this issue.

[Reporter] In your view, this time will the U.S. role of full partner be more effective in pressuring Israel to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 425?

[Shammas] Resolution 425 is valid and is a basic factor in the Lebanese position. The press uses certain descriptions, which I can neither approve nor reject. What I want to say is that President Clinton declared in a loud voice that Syria is the key to peace. He used clear English terms that leave no room for misinterpretation or doubt. He said: Syria is the key [last three words said in English]. He used the article "the" [said in English] clearly. This word caused us problems because it was not used in Security Council Resolution 242 in its English text. The word was clearly used in Geneva this time. Such a stance by the U.S. President is significant. What counts is that all resources should be employed to lay the foundation for a comprehensive and fair solution. In a comprehensive solution, Lebanon will be protected, particularly because it entered these negotiations in close unison with fraternal Syria. This is not rhetoric but fact because as long as Lebanon and Syria are in full agreement, they will be safe and sound.

[Reporter] Will the 12th round of talks be held this month, Mr. Ambassador?

[Shammas] We are now going to Washington to resume negotiations at the level of delegation heads. The results of our contacts will decide if there is a point in holding a new round. So, watch what will happen in Washington. I would like to tell you that for a long time you are not going to hear my voice. This is the last time you will hear me; you will spare your listeners a dissonant voice. Thank you.

[Reporter] The Israeli ambassador to the United States said yesterday that Syria is the key to a Middle East settlement. He does not expect peace agreements with Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians at this stage. What do you think?

[Shammas] We believe, and the Lebanese officials have made many statements at various levels that if progress is made on the Syrian track, all Arabs, especially Lebanon, will benefit. But I do not believe that the other negotiating tracks will be deadlocked; they will affect each other. The Americans believe that Syria is the key to a solution. If the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, who is also Israel's ambassador to Washington, agrees, then this is perhaps a positive sign. But I do not necessarily agree with him about his other conclusions. [end recording]

### Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for London

*NC2301121194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for London a short while ago on an official visit to the United Kingdom. This is the first such visit by a Lebanese prime minister since 1975. Prime Minister al-Hariri will hold talks with British officials on political and economic issues.

### Junblatt on Geneva Summit, Government Policy

*NC2201114294 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt has paid tribute to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's wisdom, position, and insistence on the rights of the Arabs, particularly the Lebanese. He said: President al-Asad conveyed the Arab demand clearly, rejected separate deals, and regarded every such deal as a failure. He held talks with the U.S. President from a position of strength, if one can say so. He promoted Arab prestige in this meeting. He proved that the Arabs have a legitimate right to wage a struggle and regain their land in Lebanon, Palestine, the Golan, and other areas. He held talks between two equals. The United States will have to act as an unbiased mediator to fulfill the Arab demand regarding the confirmation and implementation of UN resolutions. The ball is now in the court of the Americans and the Israelis.

In an interview published by AL-SHIRA' magazine today, Minister Junblatt said that President al-Asad discussed Lebanon's case on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which Lebanon is seeking to implement. President al-Asad emphasized the need for the Lebanese and Syrian tracks to be harmonious. If the Americans are able to give the Golan back to al-Asad or Syria and ensure the implementation of Resolution 425 for Lebanon, the situation will, of course, be better.

Minister Junblatt called for a plan to improve the domestic situation to deal with normalization with Israel. He said: If normalization takes place, the Zionist presence will increase. Therefore, what is needed is a plan to strengthen the political and economic situation to prevent the Zionists from infiltrating through companies and cultural affairs. The Zionist presence is subversive and will penetrate into the Arab and Islamic society. It will attempt to cause division and strife.

Regarding the faction in Lebanon that will suffer most as a result of normalization with Israel, Junblatt said: There is fear for Lebanon because of fragile national unity, as the Zionists might attempt again to divide Lebanon and use previous agents or some new agents to undermine national unity. Therefore, there is concern about national unity. We want national unity to be based on Arab unity with Syria. Normalization presents a danger to Lebanon. Some may return to wanting sectarian mini states or cantons.

Minister Junblatt stressed the need for the government to adopt a clearer social policy. Rafiq al-Hariri still represents the promise for a political, economic, and reconstruction revival. But we call on the government and its head to take into account a very important issue—a clearer social policy. The government cannot remain without a social policy vis-a-vis the labor and farmers' unions, the elderly, and the poorer class in Lebanon, which is getting poorer because of the presence of a wealthy class that is getting wealthier. The government does not yet have a social policy.

### 22-24 Jan Clashes in Southern Region Reported

#### SLA Post Attacked

*NC2201113394 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] Resistance fighters attacked an Agent Lahd [South Lebanese Army] militia position on Bra'shit hill at dawn today, using automatic weapons and rockets. The militia soldiers and their masters [the Israelis] responded by opening artillery fire at the Bra'shit area.

## Citizen Wounded by Israelis

*NC2201171194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces opened machine-gun fire on the Qabrikha township this afternoon, wounding a citizen, Adib Muhammad Hijazi, age 20.

## Bomb Kills 3 SLA Troops

*NC2301181694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Hizballah has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge near the Hula position against a South Lebanese Army [SLA] foot patrol.

A Hizballah statement said the explosion killed three SLA personnel, but REUTER cited security sources as saying that only one was killed by the explosion. It added that the SLA and Israeli soldiers carried out a retaliatory attack and shelled areas north of the occupied security strip.

## SLA Position Shelled

*NC2401082994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] According to our military correspondent, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] position near Bra'shit came under RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] and machine-gun fire originating from the town of Bra'shit, at midnight last night. No one was injured in the shelling.

## Israelis Shell Villages

*NC2401085894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] The periphery of Kafr Rumman came under artillery bombardment from Tallat al-Suwayda' this morning. Several shells fell on Mlita, Jarju', and al-Luwayzah. Bursts of machine-gun fire were directed against the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills from the Sujud position.

Later in the morning the Israelis shelled al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit.

The resistance fired four rockets against the Israeli position in al-Tuhrah this morning. The al-Suwayda' position was also attacked.

## Amal Attacks Israeli, SLA Posts

*NC2401093394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces' artillery positioned in al-Qantarah shelled Shaqra, Bra'shit, and Majdal Silm at 0930 today.

The Amal Movement announced that its groups carried out a series of operations this morning against the positions of the occupation forces and their agents that overlook the liberated areas. They attacked Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun this morning.

Amal said in a statement that another group attacked the agents' position in Saydun with rockets and machine guns at 0915 today. It also announced that other Amal groups attacked the al-Tuhrah and al-Suwayda' positions with rockets and mortars at 0630 today. Clashes ensued with the elements manning the two positions that lasted for 15 minutes.

An Amal group attacked the Bra'shit position with machine guns and rockets at midnight.

## Israelis Attacked, Hold Maneuvers

*NC2401102494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] The resistance forces detonated an explosive device under an Israeli patrol on the road between Hula and Shaqra at 0930 today. They also fired more than 10 mortars shells at the Bra'shit and Shaqra positions and later carried out an attack on them.

The Israeli army bombarded Wadi al-Saluqi and the al-Litani River basin with tank guns and other heavy artillery. [passage omitted]

In another development, security forces said that the Israeli forces began military exercises at al-Majidiyah Camp in the central sector of the border strip this morning. The sounds of tank fire and heavy and medium machine-gun fire from those exercises can still be heard.

## Israelis Retaliate After Attack

*NC2401121994 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1204 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Just in from the news desk: Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reported a short time ago that the Islamic Resistance carried out an attack against the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army position with machine guns and rockets shortly after 1330 today. The fighting is still continuing.

Our correspondent said that the Israeli forces are retaliating by directing their gunfire against the periphery of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and the al-Litani River basin.

## Leaders, Citizens Mourn Death of Basil al-Asad

### Mubarak, al-Hirawi, Others at Funeral

*JN2201171794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] A mammoth funeral was held in al-Qardahah today for President Hafiz al-Asad's son, Staff Major General Basil al-Asad, who died yesterday in a heartbreaking accident.

The funeral procession was led by President Hafiz al-Asad. Attending the funeral were Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who arrived in al-Qardahah today, and his delegation comprising Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Defense Minister Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, and Usamah al-Baz, the director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs.

Also attending the funeral were Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who led a high-level delegation comprising senior Lebanese officials, ministers, and religious figures; Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, who led a large delegation of Lebanese parliamentarians; Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who led a delegation of Lebanese ministers; Prince Hasan, Jordan's regent and crown prince, who arrived in al-Qardahah leading a delegation comprising former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and education minister.

Other officials attending the funeral included: Prince Mut'ib Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi public works and housing minister representing His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, representing Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait; Habib Ahmad Qasim, Bahraini trade and agriculture minister, representing Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, brother of Qatari amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, representing the Qatari amir; a delegation representing the Iranian Presidency and Foreign Ministry; the Arab agricultural ministers and heads of delegations attending the meetings of the ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development; and the Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited in Damascus.

The funeral was also attended by senior party and state officials and tens of thousands of citizens who encircled the mosque in which the prayer for the dead was conducted.

### 'Arafat Offers Condolences to al-Asad

*JN2301195994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO Executive Committee, and the accompanying delegation left the Humaymim airport in Latakia this evening after offering their condolences to President al-Asad on the death of Staff Major Paratrooper Engineer Basil al-Asad, whose demise has been such a national loss.

During his short visit, Yasir 'Arafat was accompanied by a delegation, including Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; and Muhammad Ghunaym, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Yasir 'Amr, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and Muhammad Jihad, member of Fatah Central Committee.

'Arafat and the accompanying delegation were seen off by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah. 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation arrived in al-Qardahah today to offer their condolences to President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of Staff Major Paratrooper Basil Hafiz al-Asad.

### Citizens Express Grief

*JN2301175394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1700 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] An atmosphere of solemn melancholy engulfed the city of Damascus for the third day running as people mourned the loss of the young Staff Major Paratrooper Basil al-Asad taken away by death at the apogee of his promising life. Mosques and churches continued to express this sadness through recitations of Koranic verses and the ringing of church bells from the early hours of the morning. As people prayed that God give patience to President Hafiz al-Asad and to enable him to continue the struggle to achieve pride and dignity for his nation.

All shops and business markets were closed for the third day running to observe a three-day mourning. In the universities and educational institutions, examinations were postponed as students were still under the impact of this tragic shock.

Students and businessmen took to the streets in sad processions to express the depth of their grief. Various popular organizations distributed posters in the main streets expressing condolences to President al-Asad and his family.

## Press: Al-Asad Puts Peace, Country Before Grief

*JN2401094094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0556 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says: The resulting grief from the loss of great individuals is equal to their greatness. For a father who has lost a son and a president who is leading a people who are his children, there are no limits to the tragedy of the unexpected death of Major Basil al-Asad.

After stating that the homeland has lost one of the most brilliant knights of the Arabs and the future, AL-BA'TH continues: Because of this tragedy, Hafiz al-Asad, faces one test as a man and another as a leader. He must overcome this tragedy so it will not turn into a test for the entire nation. Only tall trees are hit by strong winds. It is the fate of trees to live standing, to die standing, and to remain tall.

AL-BA'TH continues: When one stands before the grieving father to console him, he is consoled by the wisdom of a leader who yields to God's will. Perhaps in his deep grief, the whole world becomes unimportant in the eyes of President al-Asad. Yet, the whole world greatly appreciates his noble sadness and determination to move the region, which has offered the dearest sacrifices in the conflict, from the tragedies of the past and the present to a just, comprehensive settlement and future stability and prosperity.

AL-BA'TH continues: In the Geneva summit, leader al-Asad gained something indispensable for the Arab future. In Damascus, he lost something indispensable. In both cases, he is the man who has been acknowledged by the president of the strongest state in the world as the key to the settlement process and the Middle East future.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The [Middle East] issue is too great to be overshadowed by tragedies. President al-Asad is leading a crucial Arab battle. He has grabbed a historic opportunity to restore Arab rights as necessitated by pan-Arab constants in an age of tremendous international changes. He is deeply saddened, but he does not stop working wisely and firmly. Enduring his grave wound, he seeks to heal Arab wounds.

## Washington Talks To Begin Amid 'Cautious Optimism'

*JN2401153094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1248 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The meetings of the heads of the Arab and Israeli delegations to the Washington talks are due to begin today amid cautious optimism.

Although U.S. officials expect positive results this time, the previous experience with Israel has not been encouraging. Furthermore, since the historic Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton and the emphasis it placed on a comprehensive and just solution on all fronts, the Israelis, represented by their prime minister and their negotiators, have continued to cast doubts on the results of the summit as well as Syrian intentions. They then aggravated the situation by calling for a referendum on the Golan—as if the Golan is not occupied Syrian territory that Israel usurped by force in 1967.

Since the end of Geneva summit, observers agreed that the ball is now in Israel's court since Israel has committed itself to peace requisites within the framework of a real and honorable peace. The observers believe that Syria had contributed to the peace process despite all the obstacles created by Israel.

Likewise, the observers agreed that this referendum game of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is nothing but a maneuver to curb the momentum of the peace process and its requisites. Throughout history, no occupier had ever conducted a referendum on a land that does not belong to it. What, then, about the case of the Golan—in which UN Resolutions have upheld its Syrian identity, declared all Israeli measures concerning it null and void, and urged Israel to fully withdraw from it?

The success of the Washington talks, expected to be held today, depends on a positive Israeli position devoid of maneuverability and procrastination. In fact, the UN resolutions that were adopted as the basis of the peace settlement in the region do not leave any room for ambiguity. There is no room for all these Israeli maneuvers on this subject.

It is true that the negotiations usually face ups and downs, but there are basic principles that should be respected and translated into a tangible results, foremost of which is land for peace. Land does not mean part of the Golan, south Lebanon, or the West Bank. It means all of the Golan, south Lebanon, and the West Bank. Security guarantees should be mutual, especially since Israel is the one that threatens the Arabs, not vice versa. Had Israel committed itself to these principles, peace would have prevalent in the region by now.

The Washington talks have always been confronted with Israel's strange interpretations of Security Council resolutions and its deceptive concepts of security guarantees. The Arabs, and the whole world, understand that the Security Council resolutions mean full withdrawal from the occupied territories. Israel is speaking about partial and phased withdrawals. The Arabs understand security as mutual guarantees, and Israel wants to disarm the Arabs and to add more weapons to its already lethal arsenal. The Arabs understand peace as just and comprehensive, one that includes all fronts; Israel wants a phased peace that will not end occupation and does not lead to the withdrawal of its aggressive forces. This is the crux of the problem, and there is no solution to this disagreement unless Israel bows fully to the resolutions of international legitimacy and accepts the exchange of all occupied land for peace.

Syria and all Arabs are looking forward to a real and honorable peace—the peace of the brave about which President al-Asad spoke. Al-Asad has asked Israeli leaders to rise to the level of this peace. The Arabs are engaged in new talks today out of their faith in peace and they are counting on the international community taking action on its responsibilities. Eventually, the Israeli procrastination that has lasted for more than two years must come to an end.

## 'High-level' Sources on Geneva Summit Outcome

*JN2301115194 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Jan 94 pp 1, 30*

[By 'Assaf 'Abbud from Damascus]

[Text] In the first Syrian comment on the al-Asad-Clinton summit, Jubran Kuriyah, official spokesman for the Syrian Presidential Office, has described the summit outcome as "positive and encouraging." He added that this outcome will reflect on the overall Middle East peace process as well as on Syrian-U.S. ties.

Kuriyah went on to say that the outcome of the summit will also pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks on the basis of the land for peace principle and UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. High-level Syrian sources have informed AL-ITTIHAD that the next few days will witness intensive meetings in Damascus. The meeting due to be held between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi today is expected to be followed by a visit to the Syrian capital by King Husayn of Jordan, the sources added.

In response to a question by AL-ITTIHAD on the Syrian position regarding the U.S. proposal to deploy U.S. troops on the Golan, the sources said that this position is contingent on Israeli's acceptance to withdraw from all occupied Syrian territory.

### Papers View Summit, Need To Move Peace Process

*JN2001085194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Jan 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "International Legitimacy and the Need To End Israeli Disdain," AL-BA'TH writes: The results of the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton have undoubtedly provided new prospects for the efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The summit has placed the entire peace process in its correct framework and stressed the need to achieve progress on all tracks of the peace talks.

The paper adds: If things go as they should in the Washington talks, scheduled to resume next week, then the just and comprehensive peace can certainly be achievable.

The paper stresses that after the Geneva summit, Israel not only failed to change its rejectionist positions, but also fabricated new obstacles to place on the path of the forthcoming Washington talks. The paper notes that this confirmed that the Tel Aviv government continues to refuse to work in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper adds: The world, particularly the United States, has acknowledged that separate and partial solutions will not bring the kind of peace which the world community is seeking to achieve.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: It is now imperative for the world community, represented by the United Nations, to put an end to Israeli disdain for the world's security and peace, and, consequently, work on rehabilitating this organization, which was founded to spread peace and security in the world. We say this because Israel is the only party that has not yet implemented any of the UN resolutions.

On the same subject and under the headline "Hope," AL-THAWRAH says: The Geneva summit came in response to the call for the just and comprehensive peace, which has been a Syrian objective since the launch of the Corrective Movement. It is also true that the summit marked a major qualitative action that rose to the level of the challenges and aspirations of the nation. President al-Asad has carried the worries of the nation, embodied its hopes, expressed its objectives, and spoken on its behalf.

The paper stresses the need to concentrate on rescuing the peace process from the state of inaction and stumbling and moving it to a new phase, based on a driving force drawn from President Bill Clinton's statement that his country is determined to do all it can to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region through the implementation of the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. The paper stresses that such a move will raise great hopes that the peace process can be placed on the track charted in the Madrid conference to bear fruit this year. President Hafiz al-Asad hopes this year will be the year of genuine peace, the just and comprehensive peace.

The paper also notes that progress in the peace process must put an end to the various Israeli methods of deception and maneuvering and the avoidance of the principles of the just and comprehensive peace and the UN resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its editorial by stressing the soundness of the Syrian view, saying: Has Syria not said at the early stages of the peace process that the battle for peace, is just like war, and has its requirements, principles, and conditions? Has Syria not fought that battle with the skill of the peerless leader who took it upon himself to carry the task of defending the rights of the entire nation. Who else but leader al-Asad can wrest the nation's rights and correct its march in the most difficult circumstances and the most complicated positions?

### Commentary Reacts to Rabin's Referendum on Golan

*JN2101173994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] After U.S. President Bill Clinton stressed the sincerity of the Syrian approach to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Israel, through its prime minister, has resumed the campaign of casting doubts which it began right after the Geneva summit. It claimed that Syria has not announced its intentions toward peace frankly, and that in light of this ambiguous Syrian stand, Rabin has no choice but to hold a referendum on the Golan. Rabin's claims, as well as those of other Israeli officials, do not stand up to any test because the whole world has applauded Syria's sincere and positive stand. In fact, it has termed its stand a basic contribution to pushing forward the peace process and to saving it from its current stumblings. The truth is that what annoys Rabin is Syria's adherence to a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace which President al-Asad called the peace of the brave. Israel does not want to negotiate on equal footing, but wants others to negotiate from a position of weakness, submission, and capitulation. Neither does it want an honorable peace, but a humiliating peace which entrenches its control of the region's resources, and its military and economic hegemony on it. From this premise, it seeks to seize as much occupied territory as it can for purposes of expansion on the one hand, and for purposes of threat and blackmail on the other. Rabin's plan to hold referendum on the Golan falls within this framework, for the occupiers' referendum does not cancel the everlasting fact that Golan is Syrian territory. Neither does it abrogate the international law, which does not only recognize the Syrian identity of the territory, but also obligates Israel to withdraw its forces and to return all the Golan to its owners and people.

Had occupation been able to cancel the identity of territory, most of Europe would have turned into German territory, or Germany itself would have vanished as a state and nation and become part of another country. Instead of harping on doubts and intentions, Israel should move to real action for peace and implement the land for peace formula. Israel has thus far not complied with the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions or with withdrawal from the occupied territories. It is talking about concessions, whose nature and dimensions are not known to anyone. Withdrawal from the Golan does not mean concessions, for the Golan is occupied Syrian territory. It means compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, the principles of the international law, and the essence of the current peace process. Despite this, Syria offers peace in return for withdrawal. Peace is a great event that provides security, safety, and tranquility for all the region's states.

Since 1948, Israel's rulers have been crying and calling for peace with the Arabs. So, why are they trying to evade peace today if they are really sincere, and there cries are not simply a cover for their hostile and expansionist schemes? The kind of peace Syria is calling for is a just and comprehensive peace, the true peace which is accepted by peoples. Such peace necessitates Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied territories and its recognition of Arab rights. Israel's acceptance of this peace would provide security for all sides. However, separate deals and fragile agreements, which are full of arrogance, hegemony, and occupation, do not bring security or tranquility. Neither do they safeguard the present and the future. Regardless of the Israelis' attempts to cast doubts, the ball is in their court, and the world is waiting for them to take a stand that will live up to the aspirations and dimensions of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

## Afghanistan

### Rabbani To Accept People's Choice of New Leader

*BK2401003494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1804 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani Sunday [23 Jan] said he would allow the nation to choose a new leader, stressing that the country's war-ravaged situation would have to determine how this is done.

In a nationwide broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, Rabbani said he would accept the people's choice.

The embattled president, whose 18-month tenure ends in June, did not say if he was ready to immediately step down, as demanded by his rival, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar is allied with Uzbek warlord and former communist general Abdol Rashid Dostam, who staged a coup attempt on New Year's Day. The bloody power struggle continues to rage in Kabul three weeks after the failed coup.

"I am offering the people (the right) to choose a new leadership," Rabbani said, adding that the country's turbulent situation would have to dictate the manner in which this is accomplished.

A new leader could be chosen either through a consultative council of elders or through elections, Rabbani added.

However, he said if the nation opted for elections, the war-ravaged country would need assistance from the United Nations or the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). The president did not set a deadline nor did he elaborate the mechanism.

Rabbani said the January 1 coup had been orchestrated outside of Afghanistan. "It was an external conspiracy," he said.

But he did not identify any foreign power.

The president's speech came as Kabul was plunged into one of the fiercest battles since he assumed office.

Rabbani said his forces would be ready to stop fighting against the mujahedeen of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afganistan] faction, "but the battle with Dostam troops would continue until the communist militia surrendered or was crippled."

"We can not allow conspirators to seize power by force," he vowed.

### Rabbani Addresses Nation on Failed Coup d'Etat

*LD2301195394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jan 94*

["Message" from President Borhanoddin Rabbani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners of radio Afghanistan, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan, presents a radio and television [as heard] message concerning the shameful and failed coup d'etat by the Globoddin-Karmal-Dostam satanic triangle and the victory of the Islamic army forces:

[Rabbani, in Dari] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Praise be upon the pure souls of dear martyrs of our beloved country and peace be upon the persecuted and heroic nation of Afghanistan, and in particular the noble citizens of bloody Kabul, who have witnessed grave pains and catastrophe prior to the victory, particularly after the victory of Jihad.

Faithful compatriots, the recent treacherous coup d'etat is the continuation of a series of consistent crimes that have been shaped by the enemies of Islam and our dear homeland outside the country's borders and that have been implemented one by one by treacherous elements and merciless murderers, the sworn enemies of our nation. The defeat of this bloody conspiracy along with its broad external and internal dimensions, is a gigantic victory and a historic deed by self-sacrificing heroic mojahedin and the wisdom of our new Islamic army. I congratulate the faithful nation and brave mojahedin, who with unprecedented courage stand in the trenches defending the soil of Islam and their homeland, on this great victory. I express thanks and gratitude to all leaders, the knowledgeable ulema, and dear commanders who have played a historic role in the defeat of this bloody coup d'etat and have supported the Islamic state. I sincerely thank all the people of Kabul, who have welcomed refugees from the affected areas; the state's services commission; the Red Crescent; the International Red Cross; and doctors and hospital personnel, who, with courage and sympathy, have rendered services to the wounded, the disabled, and refugees.

The Islamic state, while determined to uproot the reasons for the country's lack of stability in line with the wishes of the people, [words indistinct] to violate shamefully the life, property, and honor of the people, is ready to end the war with the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], which Hekmatyar, contrary to the will of its center of decision-making and contrary to the will of its commanders, has unilaterally participated in this bloody catastrophe. We believe the members of Hezb-e Eslami are never desirous of war against their colleagues-in-one-trench and mojahedin in the Islamic state. In particular, after the recent conspiracy, no one in the Hezb-e Eslami wants to stand against the [word indistinct] of faithful mojahedin in the Islamic state and against the whole nation and to be apparently those whose swords are with Yazid [person who killed Prophet Mohammad's grandson Husayn in Karbala'] and their hearts with Hosayn.

However, as far as it depends on the militia, the purging of professional murderers and the centers of corruption and savagery will continue until they surrender their weapons to the Afghan nation.

The Islamic state warmly welcomes the sympathetic efforts of leaders of the fraternal countries: Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers conference, and the UN, who are making efforts toward the establishment of security and putting an end to bloodshed in Afghanistan. Special envoys of the Islamic state of Afghanistan have met and discussed this matter with the leaders of the fraternal countries, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. A delegation will be sent soon to Tehran to gain the cooperation of this fraternal neighboring country in solving our problems, while thanking it for its goodwill efforts.

In the meantime the state sincerely welcomes all esteemed circles in the country who are making efforts toward peace. We hope their efforts bear fruit.

Concerning political changes in the country's future, this point should not be left unsaid: The Islamic state never allows conspirators to target the destiny of this nation for their sinister aims through killing and murder. The people have determined their political destiny through their presence within the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shra-e Hal wa 'Aqd]. We again give the right to the nation's representatives to appoint their future leadership through a gathering or elections in line with the country's special conditions.

We invite the ICO and UN representatives to take part in and help us with the process of elections or any other process our people choose. Peace be upon you. God be with you.

## Views Cease-Fire with Hekmatyar, Dostam

*NC2301105894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Kabul, 23 Jan (MENA)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has accused foreign powers of taking part in the abortive coup carried out against him on 1 January.

In an exclusive statement given to a MENA correspondent in Kabul, Rabbani reiterated that foreign powers planned and financed the conspiracy to achieve special covetous designs, although Afghanistan does not interfere in their affairs. The Afghan president said that the coup attempt was a vicious plot perpetrated by Golboddin Hekmatyar, General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the communists, and other parties in a bid to overthrow the Islamic regime in Kabul by armed force. He pointed out that they planned to execute the plot on the anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president described Gen. Dostam as a professional killer and a traitor. He said that Dostam is a remnant of the former communist regime. The Afghan president added that Golboddin Hekmatyar has distorted the image of jihad and mojahedin in Afghanistan. After the inception of the Islamic state in Afghanistan, we granted them amnesty with the hope that they would repent and contribute toward reconstructing a new Afghanistan, the Afghan president added. But, driven by their criminal nature, they decided to return to their conspiratorial course.

President Borhanoddin Rabbani noted that all Muslim scholars, shayks, mojahedin leaders, and Islamic political powers had responded to the Islamic jihad call. The Afghan president revealed that many mojahedin leaders, who belong to Hekmatyar groups, refused to take part in the coup attempt and rejected his alliance with Dostam.

Rabbani said that he will reject any contacts for a cease-fire with Dostam, but he added that it is possible to work out a kind of cease-fire formula with Hekmatyar provided there are guarantees that he would not violate it. The Afghan president stressed that the Afghan people are capable of crushing any domestic rebellion or foreign plot. The Afghan people will continue to support their Islamic state with all their strength, President Rabbani added.

## Hekmatyar Welcomes Proposed Peace Conference

*BK2401082894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] The Afghan prime minister, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, has welcomed the proposal of Pakistan to convene a regional peace conference in Islamabad for finding a solution to the current crisis in Afghanistan. A spokesman of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], (Ustab Kariborrahman Seyyed), told Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative that all possibilities should be explored to bring about permanent peace and stability in Kabul. Any temporary arrangement, he said, will bear no fruits.

Commenting on Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani's address to the nation, the spokesman reiterated that the president should relinquish power in favor of a neutral interim government without delay to save the country from further devastation.

Meanwhile, AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS reports from Kabul that 18 top-ranking officials of Parcham Party committed suicide in Kabul yesterday fearing tough reprisal by Mojahedin.

### Council Welcomes Mediation Efforts

*BK2301084494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] The Afghan prime minister, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, has said the Supreme Coordination Council representing the parties opposed to President Rabbani will welcome mediation efforts by any country, including Pakistan for the restoration of peace in Kabul. This was stated by a spokesman of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], while talking to Radio Pakistan's representative in Peshawar this morning. He urged President Rabbani to accept cease-fire offer of 45-group of mojahedin commanders to pave the way for a dialogue to end the fighting in Afghanistan.

Reports from Afghanistan say Kabul was relatively calm this morning barring a few minor skirmishes.

## India

### Ministry Criticizes Clinton's Remarks on Punjab

*BK2301155994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] India has criticized the U.S. President's remarks on Punjab. In a statement, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India's ambassador in Washington has been asked to express New Delhi's concern on this matter to the U.S. authorities. He indicated such pronouncements and communications by the Clinton administration will have a negative impact on bilateral relations. The spokesman said that the letter from Mr. Clinton to the U.S. senator, Mr. Gary Condit, [title as heard] has come in the wake of a series of negative pronouncements by Washington on Kashmir, human rights, and Punjab. He stated that the situation in Punjab is today peaceful and a solution to the Punjab problem has been found by the people of the state by democratic means, where the rights of all Indians, including Sikhs, are protected under the law regardless of their religion. He rejected any statement that speaks of a solution that protects only Sikh rights.

Reiterating India's commitment to human rights, the spokesman said New Delhi does not accept any external prescriptions in this regard. The statement said that New Delhi will continue to work for a multifaceted friendly and cooperative relations with Washington for mutual benefit, peace and stability in the region.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has criticized the U.S. President for his reported remarks on Punjab. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party said the remark is a direct interference in India's internal affairs and encouragement to secessionist forces.

### Parties Express Similiar Views

*BK2401124894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] have criticized President Clinton's views on Punjab. The National Executive of the CPI, in a statement in New Delhi, said these views reflect the latest manifestation of American interference in India's internal affairs and amounts to open support to separatists and terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir.

Briefing newspersons in New Delhi, the BJP spokesman also expressed similar views and said the government should prepare a comprehensive action plan to deal with the activities of foreign outfits in the country, particularly ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence of Pakistan].

### Rao Predicts Return to Normalcy in Kashmir Soon

*BK2401051694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that the overall situation in the Kashmir Valley will improve substantially in the near future, leading to an initiation of a meaningful electoral process. Addressing the national executive members of the Indian Journalists Union at Jammu last evening, he expressed confidence that normalcy will return to Kashmir shortly. He asked political leaders to help in this process.

Referring to Pakistan's attempt at destabilizing peace in the valley, he said Islamabad will create problems for New Delhi so that peace does not return to the state. In this connection, he said, Pakistan is reported to be preparing to push about 10,000 Afghan mercenaries into Jammu and Kashmir to help the militants. He said it is an attempt to boost the sagging morale of the militants, who are having a tough time with the security forces. The governor made it clear that these mercenaries will meet the same fate as the other militants. He reiterated that Kashmir is an integral part of India and no force can take it away.

### ISI Arming, Training Rebels in Northeast

*BK2201145094 Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jan 94 p 1*

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Having been checkmated in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has chalked out a grand design to create turmoil in India's north-east region.

The recent formation of the "United Liberation Front of Seven Sisters", comprising Muviah faction of the NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland] of Nagaland, the Bodo Security Force, the ULFA [United Liberation

Front of Assam], and the PLA [People's Liberation Army] of Manipur is a sinister move in this direction, especially as army and civil intelligence reports confirm that insurgents of this group are being armed and trained by the ISI.

It has reportedly opened at least five centres in Bangladesh, presumably with the full knowledge of the authorities in Dhaka.

After their bases in Myanmar [Burma] were over-run by Yangon's troops in 1991, the ULFA and several Naga insurgency leaders fled to Bangladesh, and came in contact with the ISI.

They are said to have prompted the anti-talk faction of the ULFA to hook up with the Muviah faction of the NSCN. Earlier, it had aligned itself with the NSCN (Khaplang).

It may be mentioned that the Khalistan Commando Force and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had extended their support to the NSCN and the ULFA extremists.

The United Liberation Front of Seven Sisters has already pulled off two successful and high-profile raids. On December 20, an Army colonel and 14 jawans of the Maratha Light Infantry were mowed down in an ambush in Mokukchong in Nagaland. In another incident, ULFA activists kidnapped four policemen in a raid on a thana [police station] in Nowgong district of Assam.

The region has witnessed violent campaigns in the past as well prompting authorities to take punitive action against the rebels or tribal insurgents, and then again being forgotten by the authorities in Delhi and in this region. It has been so since independence. Yet even today, when the insurgent forces have regrouped in different parts and are challenging the Government, a cohesive and long-term policy to tackle the situation is missing.

Though, President's rule has been promulgated in Manipur, the timing of its enforcement has been wrong giving the impression that it had been done under threat of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN). The Assembly has however been kept in animated suspension. In Assam, which geographically occupies a pivotal position in the region, Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia rides his hobby-horse—persuading the ULFA militants to return to mainstream politics, even as he admits that at least two districts are still not completely under Government control.

There are today about as many military and paramilitary forces engaged in operations in Nagaland and Manipur as there are in terrorist-infested Kashmir. The terrain in the Naga Hills favours guerilla warfare, and the hostile Naga is considered a far superior fighter than the Kashmiri militant.

Collecting loyalty tax even from Government staff has become a thriving business in Manipur and Nagaland, with insurgent groups running parallel governments in some areas. Some Assam tea gardens have received "extortion" notices from one of the insurgent groups. And even more ominous have been reports, of theft of weapons from Manipur Rifles and the Naga Armed Police, raising concern in the army. Lower-level functionaries of these two State armed police forces have been putting little or no resistance against insurgents during these raids.

However, this unsettled condition in India's north-east is not unique. The entire tribal region from Chittagong Hill Tracts to the western borders of Thailand has been in turmoil for decades. Regional aspirations are just one aspect of this. It is also a clash of cultures and value systems as apparently modern states with seemingly modern political systems seek to impose their values and ways on tribal communities. It should not be forgotten that the British had sought militarily borders based on local geographical considerations rather than borders based on demographic considerations.

It is no wonder, therefore, that Nagas can be found living on either side of Indo-Myanmar border, as is the case with ethnically related tribes like the Mizos, Kukis and Chins. Since this has many ramifications for both India and Myanmar, one would have thought that there would be a good level of cooperation between the two countries. On the contrary, because of India's perceived support to the so-called democracy movement in Myanmar, that country's military is supporting the Naga movements.

To make matters more and more complex, every constituted government in the region, which includes the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh and the state governments of Manipur and Nagaland, with the possible exception of the Government of India, seems involved in stoking the fire.

In the wake of improved ties with India, China has only now started adopting a hands-off policy.

The outlook, therefore, looks grim. Fresh accords with one or the other insurgent element or group or even hard punitive action like Operation Rhino in Assam in the past, will be futile unless sustained systematic efforts are made to eradicate the causes leading to alienation and insurgency in the region.

### Alleged Pakistani Terrorism Plan Foiled

*BK2201130094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] An agency from Jullundur says the Punjab Police has foiled a plan of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, ISI, to revive terrorist activities in the state. The Jullundur district police chief told newsmen today that an editor of a local Punjabi daily and a telephone operator in that newspaper setup, who had allegedly established links with the intelligence network were arrested last night.

### Air Force, Navy To Receive Pilotless Aircraft

*BK2401103394 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 4 Jan 94 p 9*

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, 3 January—The Indian Air Force and Navy will receive a novel and sophisticated defensive weapon this year. Bearing the name Target, this weapon is called the Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA). As is evident from the name, this aircraft is automatic and there is no need for a pilot. It can also be used in a reconnaissance role.

More than 40 successful trial flights have been conducted on this aircraft which was in the process of development for more than a decade at the Aeronautic Development Establishment, a component of the Defense Research Development Organization. The aircraft mainly takes off from air bases, although it can take off from a warship as well. The successful trial of the Air Force-type and Naval-type Target aircraft will considerably increase the defense capabilty of the two wings of the Armed Forces because by remaining in the sky for a considerable duration, it can cause the attacking aircraft or missiles launched from sea or air to go astray and thus successfully neutralize them in the open skies.

Waiting in a striking position on the sea or in the air, the PTA will take off as soon as the enemy's missile is launched either from the sea or air. It will then release a Tow Body [preceding two words published in English] attached to it which constantly emits infrared rays which attract the attacking missiles to itself.

The PTA is being manufactured on the premises of the Bangalore-based Aircraft Division of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Only a few developed countries in the world possess this type of pilotless aircraft. After establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, they purportedly offered to assist India in developing this aircraft. But the Defense Research Development Organization kept the development of the PTA quite secret. The aircraft was demonstrated for the first time at the international aviation exhibition Avia India 93.

## Iran

### President Sends Condolences to Syria's al-Asad

*LD2201115394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani issued a message of condolence today following the death of the Syrian president's son. The message expresses sympathy and sorrow about the sad incident, and asks God Almighty to grant forgiveness to the deceased son of Hafiz al-Asad and patience and endurance to the grieving families.

### KAYHAN Accuses U.S., Israel in Basil al-Asad's Death

*NC2301171594 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper on Sunday [23 January] accused the Israeli and US intelligence services of masterminding the car crash in which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's eldest son, Basil, was killed.

"The Zionists are too anxious to deal with a Syria without another Hafiz al-Asad, so the incident raises many questions," said the daily KAYHAN. "We cannot exclude a role here for US and Israeli agents."

The newspaper said Basil was the most appropriate replacement for his father and Syria's "only hope" to continue the "tough political heritage" of Hafiz al-Asad, who has ruled the country for 24 years.

The paper added that Basil was his father's confidant, often chosen to launch secret negotiations on Hafiz al-Asad's behalf, particularly with the Lebanese Shiite Moslem fundamentalist group Hizballah.

Basil al-Asad, an Army major who was being groomed to succeed his 63-year-old father, died on Friday aged 31. He was buried on Saturday in the family's home village of al-Qardahah in northern Syria, at a funeral attended by several Arab leaders and some 100,000 mourners.

Basil's death came less than a week after Asad and US President Bill Clinton held a summit meeting in Geneva in a bid to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process, which Iran fiercely opposes.

In a condolence message to Asad on Saturday Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani described Basil's death as a "tragic event."

### Military Exercises Launched in Persian Gulf

*LD2301124094 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 22, IRNA—'Fath-3' military exercise launched in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf Sunday morning.

The exercise is jointly conducted by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Army.

Units from naval, air and Ground Forces take part in the 6-day exercise which is aimed at promoting the combat power of the forces.

### TEHRAN TIMES Assesses U.S.-Syrian Talks

*NC2101154494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jan 94 p 2*

[Editorial: "The Geneva Meeting"]

[Text] The meeting of the presidents of Syria and the U.S. in Geneva came to a close after about 5 hours on Sunday evening. After their negotiations the two presidents took part at a press conference.

Although the details of the negotiations have not yet been made available to the media, all evidences point to the conclusion that the American president could not get the Syrian leader to accept the American point of view as easily as he could prevail upon 'Arafat or his predecessor had been able to make Anwar al-Sadat yield to the American pressure.

The Americans have probably become accustomed to the idea that at the end of the cold war period and after the demise of their formidable rival, the former Soviet Union, they could summon any political leader from the Third World countries and dictate their policies to him.

However, the American diplomats' efforts of the past few months to lure Hafiz al-Asad to Washington have failed to bring about any concrete result. Hafiz al-Asad only consented to a meeting with the U.S. president in a third country.

In the course of the joint press conference, al-Asad held firmly to his rightful stance, demanding Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967 six-day war or comprehensive peace settlement with all Arab countries at once.

It is worth mentioning that one of the most effective diplomatic stratagems employed by Israel in the past two decades has been to insist on separate, bilateral talks and settlements with individual Arab states. The obvious objective and natural consequence of that stratagem is of course to create discord among the Arab ranks.

In Geneva al-Assad exhibited his awareness of the fact that the American president's promises could not be relied on.

Clinton—and George Bush before him—had made many promises to 'Arafat. In practice, however, no serious step has been taken to restore to the Palestinian people any of their rights. The gap between what is promised by the American president and what is actually done by Tel Aviv leaders is extremely wide.

Interestingly the viewers of the joint press conference were only told by Clinton that Syria was seeking to normalize relations with Israel.

It would of course be quite unwise to pass a hasty judgement on the meeting between Al-Asad and Clinton before details of their negotiations are known. And in view of the cordial relations which exist between Tehran and Damascus, it is quite natural that Tehran should be expecting President al-Asad's special envoy in the coming days with details of the negotiations between the heads of America and Syria.

## Commentary on al-Asad's Meeting With Clinton

*NC2201145494 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 18 Jan 94 p 12*

[Unattributed commentary: "Al-Asad and Solitary Peace in the Middle East"]

[Text] Thousands of publications, dozens of radio stations, and hundreds of correspondents had gone to Geneva to cover the sensitive meeting between the U.S. and Syrian presidents.

To this list should be added a large number of political analysts from various countries of the world acting on behalf of many leaders and especially regional statesmen.

When the two heads of state appeared in front of the cameras for their news conference, many thought that they would utter explicit and frank words about the future of the peace process the United States has in mind. But neither of them did.

Al-Asad, as the leader of a country that sometimes acts hastily, stressed his country's former stances but in new terms, and promised that by next week he would send his foreign minister to Washington for a serious study of views.

Meanwhile, Clinton expressed satisfaction over his discussions with the Syrian leader. Reports from Geneva explicitly show that, contrary to their press communique, the two sides held frank discussions; and al-Asad's explicit statement that a partial peace in the Middle East is doomed to fail was an especially overt reference to the Camp David pact and to the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Thus, it is clear that Syria envisages its role as going beyond solely speaking for itself, so that the United States and Israel will not discuss the issue of the Golan Height alone.

The Syrians realize that if they discuss only the return of the Golan Heights, they can regain just a part of it and they will have to recognize Israel's existence. Thus, they have gathered together the various Palestinian groups and have taken the banner of struggle in their hands so that they can force the Americans to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from Golan.

Clinton, who has a trump card in his hands with the Gaza-Jericho accord, is hopeful about his future foreign policy in the Middle East, especially since he has full political accord with political leaders there. The factor that hindered Carter was that he had to cooperate with the extremist Likkudists, who traditionally incline toward the Republicans in the United States, while Clinton is dealing with Laborites.

Therefore, the current leaders in Israel trust the Democratic President of the United States. In view of this understanding between the two sides, Clinton hopes that he will be able to create a viable axis for Syria's entry into the Middle East compromise talks. While al-Asad has specifically put forth his country's conditions for participating in these talks, he prefers to continue the Washington talks in order to stabilize and at the same time strengthen his political situation.

What can be gleaned from the views expressed by the Syrian, American, and Israeli officials is that if al-Asad is prepared to accept peace, he will get the price he wants—and this is nothing less than the Golan Heights.

But the conclusion that Clinton drew from his meeting with al-Asad in Geneva was that the Syrian leader is a shrewd diplomat who is aware of his weak and strong points more than any other person. And probably the young U.S. President has expressed hopes that al-Asad will help him to succeed, hence the Syrian leader's remark that having hope is not a sin for the young, even if he is a president.

## ABRAR: Syrian Presence in 6+2 Pact Harms 'Prestige'

*NC2101151794 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Jan 94 p 1*

[Editorial: "Syria in Zero Plus Zero"]

[Text] When the allies' war against Iraq ended, only the simple-minded could have believed that the Americans would leave the area. At the same time, it was also proved that there was a heavy price tag attached to their staying on, especially when more issues came to light and all the Muslims in the region and world public opinion found out that Iraq had been armed by the West.

The Arab countries met the heavy cost of the military expedition to the region. But it was the Westerners who got all the glory and the shaykhs who got all the disgrace. America, which was making plans for the future of the world and the region in view of the emerging signs that the Soviet Union was disintegrating, starting to create imaginary enemies for the shaykhs in a bid to gather them together in a extra-regional pact—that is, outside the Persian Gulf. Egypt was one of the staunch supporters of this plan and immediately announced its readiness to participate; and in order to legitimize this pact or gathering, the Syrian capital, Damascus, was chosen as the venue. And the pact came to be known as the six-plus-two pact.

After the Persian Gulf war, these eight countries met to draw up plans for a regional security strategy.

Now, after at least two years, the six-plus-two has neither put forth a plan nor does it have the guts to announce its dissolution, even though its recent session was also unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, the six Persian Gulf countries insist on their past beliefs and have fear in their hearts—a fear that is based on American analyses and assessments. But Egypt and Syria are an exception to this rule.

The Egyptians are dreaming of returning to the Jamal 'Abd-an- Nasir era in the Arab world. However, they neither have the economic ability nor a leader like an-Nasir to do so. Therefore, they attend sessions on America's orders and heatedly speak about the process of Islamism in the region and about the possible threat of Islamic Iran, hoping to reap something from these efforts. But this is not so with Syria.

The Syrians accepted the six-plus-two pact because of their extensive differences with the Baghdad regime. However, they have nothing in common with the other members of the pact. They are aware of world diplomacy and of the need for independence, and they have adopted a completely progressive course. But the Syrian statesmen should also bear in mind that from America's point of view the six-plus-two pact is also considered as a club of friends who believe in the process of compromise in the Middle East.

Egypt attends the Damascus sessions because of Camp David, and the shaykhs attend the sessions because of their military pacts and complete concordance with America. Therefore, Syria's presence in such a gathering is a blow to the political prestige of an independent and progressive country. Of course, it will be a different matter if America succeeds in binding Damascus with Tel Aviv. But if not, then Syria will have no place among the remaining seven members of the pact.

## Lifting of Arab Boycott on Israel Criticized

*NC2201074994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that at their periodic session in March in Damascus the Arab foreign ministers will study the lifting of economic sanctions on Israel. This announcement by the Arab League secretary general came after his meeting with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown and shows that the addition of this topic on the agenda of the upcoming Arab League foreign ministers' session was done because of U.S. pressure.

Political observers believe that U.S. pressure on the Arabs to lift the economic sanctions on Israel cannot be understood with any kind of logic, since the conditions that forced the Arab countries to boycott the Zionist regime 40 years ago still exist and, apart from the signing of a scrap of paper on Gaza-Jericho self-rule, no perceptible change has taken place. In other words, the Zionist regime continues to occupy Arab territories, is avoiding the implementation of Security Council resolutions, and has recently intensified the suppression of the oppressed Palestinian people without having any qualms. Thus, at a time when there is no new variant that can call for the lifting of the Arabs' sanctions on Israel, how can America's request be assessed?

There is no doubt that Washington-Tel Aviv relations have had a special characteristic since the establishment of the Zionist regime and that America's supportive attitude toward Israel can be assessed and understood only within this framework. Bill Clinton's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva last week to remove the existing obstacles in the Syrian-Israeli talks showed that America is the guardian and mouthpiece of Israel, a reality that the White House has not thought necessary to hide for a long time now. These sinister relations between Washington and Tel Aviv have rendered America partial, which is one of the most important obstacles that prevents Washington from playing the role of mediator in the solution to the Middle East crisis.

In view of such a situation, the signing of any type of agreement between the Arabs and Israel will definitely benefit the Zionist regime.

## Commentary Views 'Arafat's Visit to Saudi Arabia

*NC2401062794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, arrived in Saudi Arabia last night for the first time since the oil war. PLO relations with Riyadh and with the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] deteriorated as a result of the PLO's support for Iraq's attack on Kuwait and its occupation of Kuwait; and this has had a detrimental impact on the PLO.

The GCC member states stopped their financial assistance to the PLO because of its stance in the oil war. Some 600,000 Palestinians living in the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms were placed under severe pressure and about half of them had to return to Jordan. The voluntary tax, based on an agreement among the countries in the Arab League and levied on the Palestinians and deposited in the PLO's bank account, has been blocked. PLO officials allege that all these problems have led to a financial crisis for the PLO. Six months ago the PLO started warning of a financial crisis and stopped paying benefits to the families of Palestinian martyrs and the salaries of part of its military forces in Lebanon.

According to a PLO-Saudi Arabian agreement, during his visit to Riyadh 'Arafat will meet Saudi King Fahd. This meeting will probably be the prologue to an improvement in Saudi-PLO relations. Since 'Arafat approached Israel and the United States four months ago with the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord, PLO relations with GCC members have started to improve gradually and PLO embassies have been set up in all the GCC member states except Kuwait.

'Arafat's current trip to Riyadh will probably pave the way for similar visits to other GCC member states.

## Paper on German Death Threats Against Ahmad Khomeyni

*NC2201202194 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 12 Jan 94 p 1*

[Editorial: "In the Margins of a News Report"]

[Text] A German publication carried a sensational report alleging that Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni played a role in the suspicious death of an arms dealer years ago; citing the brother of the deceased, who is the governor of one of Germany's states, it threatened him with death. This is not the first time that Western circles and mass media have tried to create problems and commotions in pursuance of their anti-Iranian and anti-Islamic objectives. After some time during which Iran was portrayed as the culprit in the assassination of one of the defunct Democratic Party leaders, the German mass media and officials were forced—after extensive investigations—to officially admit the absence of proof on Iran's role in this assassination.

The French Government's recent release of two people who were accused of assassinating Kazem Rajavi, who was assassinated by unidentified persons, shows that such accusations cannot harm Iran's reputation. It seems that there are circles in the Western countries that are trying to create a commotion with baseless allegations and thus to provoke public opinion in Europe, especially in Germany, against Iranians and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The remarks by (Barchal), governor of one of the German states shows that this propaganda policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing; according to a report published in BILD, (Barchal's) brother, who was an arms dealer, died in a suspicious manner years ago. The group in charge of investigating the case has claimed that an Iranian group was involved in the assassination of this person in Switzerland. But the BILD report gives no facts to prove that Iranian officials were involved in this act. It seems that in the current conditions such propaganda aimed at harming Iran's relations with European countries and especially with Germany is one of the major topics on the agenda of American, Israeli, and British espionage agencies. Calculated steps are needed to neutralize such extensive and calculated propaganda, which has been going on with specific objectives in mind.

For a governor of one of Germany's states to threaten to assassinate Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni is nothing but a terrorist act, and the German Government should clarify its stance on such threats.

## Mediation Efforts in Afghanistan Detailed

*NC2101180394 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Text] The special emissary to Afghanistan of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has held talks with Afghan officials. He described the mediation efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish peace and tranquillity in Kabul as positive.

According to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's correspondent in Islamabad, Ebrahim Taherian, the special Iranian emissary to Afghanistan held talks with the warring sides in the country and returned to Peshawar in Pakistan.

During his three days of meetings in Kabul, he presented a verbal message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the President of Afghanistan, Borhanoddin Rabbani and also a written message by the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. Velayati, to Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar. He also held talks with the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] Secretary General Mazari, and with the representative of the Jonbesh-e Melli-ye Eslami [Islamic National Movement] in Kabul.

Speaking to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent this morning, he stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran has mustered all its efforts to bring the leaders of all the parties involved in the conflict together in order to reach a rapprochement, and in this regard it is paying special attention to consultations with neighboring countries.

The special emissary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan added that in view of the efforts so far, the warring groups have agreed to select representatives who will meet as soon as possible.

Taherian added that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to continue its efforts until there is some specific outcome. The special emissary of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that in continuation of his assignment, he will commence talks with Pakistani officials in order to exchange views on how to reach an amicable solution to end the conflict in Afghanistan and to encourage the groups involved to compromise.

Each of the groups embroiled in the civil war in Afghanistan has set preconditions for ending the imbroglio. The spokesman for the Jami'at-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] said in Peshawar that the President of Afghanistan, Borhanoddin Rabbani, has no intention of stepping down from his position.

According to the Central News Unit in Kabul, to implement a cease-fire among the hostile factions, the government will collect all the heavy weapons around Kabul. The spokesman for Borhanoddin Rabbani added that all the political and government centers of Kabul are under the control of the forces of the (?government) and former defense minister of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. In any case, the most (?reliable) source of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] announced in an interview in Kabul that the conditions laid down by opponents of Borhanoddin Rabbani's resignation remain in effect. They stress that until he steps down from his post as President, the struggle will continue.

## Commentary on Iran's Mediation in Afghanistan

*NC2101195194 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Political commentary: "Assistance to Afghanistan and the Issue of Mediation for Peace"]

[Text] While the mediation efforts for ending the sanguinary clashes in Kabul continue, the sides involved have propounded their conditions for terminating the conflict. According to the spokesman of the Hezb-e Eslami led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister of Afghanistan, the conditions for ending the conflict are the resignation of Borhanoddin Rabbani from the post of president, the setting up of an interim government, the establishment of a national camp, and the calling of elections in six months.

The spokesman of the Jami'at-e Eslami, led by Borhanoddin Rabbani, also stressed that Rabbani should remain in his position as president and he set forth as the Government's condition that the opposition should remove their heavy weapons from around Kabul. Only then will the government agree to a cease-fire.

It appears from looking at these conditions that it is not going to be easy to find common ground for negotiations between the two sides. In fact, what has further exacerbated the situation is that the involved sides refuse to compromise on their conditions because of their sensitivity and the importance they attach to their own political status. It seems that unless there is some sort of flexibility and tolerance among the Afghan factions, there is a very slight chance of reaching any agreements on the basis of goodwill.

In any case, in the opinion of the observers of Afghan affairs, the change in the political situation in Kabul cannot help in restoring peace or promote any progress toward peaceful objectives, including elections. This is because as long as political goals are pursued through military force and weapons, an end to the war in the circumstances currently prevailing in Afghanistan is unimaginable.

In any case, experience proves that under such difficult conditions, Afghanistan's friendly neighbors have been able to motivate the warring sides to negotiate regardless of their irreconcilable conditions. It seems clear that the present clash in Kabul is bound to have the same outcome.

Meanwhile, according to the emissary of the Iranian Foreign Minister to Kabul, all the sides involved in the conflict have welcomed the mediatory actions of the friendly neighboring countries. Taherian, who met the leaders of the sides involved during visits to Kabul and Islamabad on Wednesday [12 January] said in an interview that it is difficult to convince the two sides to begin negotiations and stressed that the Iranian Foreign Ministry is seeking to establish common ground for mediation among all the Afghan warring factions by means of negotiations with Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials and those of all other Islamic countries.

### Commentary: Afghan Rivals Must Show Flexibility

*LD2101204594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Clashes between the joint forces of General Dostum and Golboddin Hekmatyar and forces loyal to Borhanoddin Rabbani continued in Kabul on Thursday and the rival groups invaded one another's positions with air attacks and long-range weapons.

Thus, a cease-fire which was due to be put into effect as of yesterday morning in Kabul was broken with exchange of scattered fire, and the opposition group's attacks against one another's positions.

Dispatches received indicate that the set cease-fire was proposed by a council of Afghan Mojahedin commanders.

The Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan on Wednesday January the 19th unilaterally announced that it will unconditionally accept the cease-fire conditions and will observe it as of 6 a.m. Thursday morning.

In the meantime, reports coming in from Peshawar, Pakistan, indicate that a four man team consisting of the representatives of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party, Dostum's National Islamic Movement, Mojahedin's National Salvation Front, and the Wahdat Party have arrived in Peshawar to hold talks with the responsible Pakistani officials, the Afghan parties, as well as theologians and the chieftains.

Based on this report, another group of Afghan commanders too, have decided to mediate between the opposition groups and supporters of Rabbani's presidency.

In the meantime, the United Nations yesterday called on the warring sides in Kabul to create safe corridors for relief assistance to tens of thousands of Afghans who have fled to the nearby cities from Kabul.

This is while the International Red Cross Committee has announced that clashes between hostile groups in Kabul has left 600 dead and 7600 injured.

War in Kabul continues at a time when the leaders of the warring groups have not yet attained common principles on the division of power in a country, which has witnessed war for the past 15 years, and where military clashes in Kabul has led to the killing of a high number of innocent people in that country.

Despite mediation by the neighboring countries the clashes still continue.

Beyond doubt the bloody war which we have witnessed in Kabul over the past few days will not entail anything other than adding further dimensions to the ruins of 15 years of war.

Heavy losses arising from the spread of war and bloodshed has damaged the brilliant record of 14 years of struggle by the Afghan people and will leave its negative and unpleasant effects in the history of Afghanistan.

Evidently the new conditions which the present leaders are trying to obtain by making the use of military power will by no means solve the numerous problems faced by the Afghan people, for any solution to the problems, specially the political ones is legitimate only when the majority of Afghan people accept it.

On this basis, the present war whose most immediate result is spread of ruins, loss of resources, and waste of human force will not only not solve any problems of the disastrous stricken Afghan people, but will add to their problems.

At any rate, the meeting and talks between the four-man team and the Pakistani officials is a move aimed at putting an end to the clashes and establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

And it will be efficient only if all the warring factions participate in it.

Hence, if one of the warring sides does not take part in it the success of the measure has to be doubted.

Evidently, although efforts aimed at paving the way for meeting among the leaders of the opposition groups in Afghanistan may face problems in terms of putting an end to the war in Kabul, beyond doubt, perseverance of mediatory countries along with flexibility which political groups have to show will picture a promising outlook for the agonized Afghan people.

At any rate, we must draw the attention of the leaders of the warring sides to the reality that the experience of the past 21 months in Afghanistan has shown that war is not the main solution to political problems in Afghanistan.

And that the continuation of clashes in Afghanistan will not entail any result other than increasingly the number of war victims who are mostly innocent people.

## Jannati: Revolutions Needed To Prepare for Hidden Imam

*LD2101211294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1152 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 21 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The reappearance of the hidden imam [12th Shiite imam, believed to have gone into occultation in AD 874] requires certain preparatory stages. It will not happen without preliminaries and miraculously. The groundwork must be laid. That is probably why the period of absence [of the Hidden Imam] lasts so long. The groundwork must be laid. Some of the preliminaries are voluntary and some non-voluntary.

The non-voluntary parts relate to the fact that human beings keep moving in certain directions and running into obstacles. Human beings who are against cruelty, against war, against poverty, against ignorance keep falling into this or that person's trap. They keep being misled by politicians and power holders; they keep being pulled in different directions and keep running into dead- ends. They must experience many dead-ends and reach a point where divine leaders and the protectors of revelation are the only ones who can save and guide humanity. They must reach a stage where they are prepared for the acceptance of the hidden imam and God's caliphate. In other words, things must reach such a pass that humanity despairs of saving itself. Things must reach that stage and they are reaching that stage. We are moving in that direction. That is one part of the groundwork: the non-voluntary preparations.

The voluntary preparations: justice-seekers, worshippers of God and those who believe in this hidden imam must prepare themselves decisively. Certain movements must come into existence. Movements which oppose oppression, revolutions which oppose bullying must come into existence; revolutions which quest for God, revolutions which quest for Islam, revolutions which can make themselves heard throughout the world and declare their demands, saying: we do not want territory, we do not want water, we do not want money or power; we want justice and fairness. Revolutions must come into existence on the basis of right and justice. And they must break bullying powers, stand up to them, and make their own aims and ideals known to the world. They must lay the groundwork. These are the voluntary parts. These are the parts which impose duties. These are the parts which mean one must discard the mistaken idea that one should sit about until the hidden imam comes and sorts things out. No! The groundwork must be laid before his holiness reappears. [passage omitted]

## Jannati on Ceremonies To Mark '10 Days of Dawn'

*LD2201131294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] On the threshold of the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the secretary of the Coordination Council of the Islamic Publicity Organization [IPO] was interviewed by reporters this morning. He explained how the 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies will be celebrated.

Ayatollah Jannati said: Among the aims of the ceremonies are to keep alive the memories of the historic days of the victory of the Islamic revolution, encourage happiness and liveliness among the people, particularly the young generation, explain and display the achievements of the revolution, praise the status of Velayati and the leadership, the martyrs, war-disabled, display the people's presence on various scenes of the revolution, and stress the need for the continuation of the path of the imam [Khomeyni], may Almighty God be satisfied with him, and the revolution principles, as well as the struggle against world arrogance.

He said that paying attention to prayers and the struggle against the cultural onslaught are among the outstanding characteristics of this year's ceremonies. [passage omitted]

In the news conference, the secretary of the IPO Coordination Council referred to some of the special ceremonies planned for this year's 10 Days of Dawn, including the ceremony called: To Welcome Light, Marking the Return of His Eminence the Imam, may Almighty God be satisfied with him, on 12 Bahman of 1357 [1 February 1979]. At that time bells will toll at 0930 in mosques, schools, offices, and churches. [passage omitted]

## Pakistan

### Hekmatyar Group To Meet Peshawar-Based Groups

*BK2301131894 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Jan 94 p 15*

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 22—A four-member delegation, representing the four-party alliance fighting against Rabbani forces in Kabul, which had arrived in Peshawar on Thursday [20 Jan], is expected to hold meetings with Afghan leaders based here on Sunday [23 Jan].

According to reliable sources, the delegation which had been sent by Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar to explore avenues for finding a lasting solution to the Afghan imbroglio, could not meet Mowlawi Yunus Khales and Mowlawi Nabi Mohammad, chief of his own faction of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and Herakat-e Enqelab-e [Islamic Revolution Movement], respectively, on Friday [21 Jan] and Saturday [22 Jan] due to some unknown reasons.

The delegation, which comprises Abdol Hadi Arghandwal of Hezb-e Eslami, Hashamatollah Mojaddedi, a representative of Prof Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's Afghan National Liberation Front, Dr Talib of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party], and Dr Abdol Karim Zaray of militia warlord Rashid Dostam's Jonbesh-e Melli Eslami [National Movement], Afghanistan, also intends to meet President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to convey to them a personal message from Hekmatyar and to inform them of the four-party coordination council's stand on the fighting in Kabul.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Hezb-e Eslami, Ustad Qaribur Rahman Saeed, said that reports appearing in section of the Press on Saturday about the destruction caused by bombing in Charasyab were exaggerated.

Talking to DAWN by telephone, Saeed said that, in fact, the Rabbani forces were left with very limited air power after the recent bombings and there was no question of their jets hitting Charasyab with such severity as was reported. He denied that Hezb controlled radio station, Payam-e Azadi, and a TV booster were destroyed. "Only a rocket had fallen there which did not cause as much damage as was claimed by the enemy," he maintained.

### Foreign Minister Works for Afghan Cease-Fire

*BK2301090294 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Jan 94 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad (NNI)—The Foreign Office [FO] has once again activated moves for a ceasefire in Kabul fighting. However, it is learnt that FO could't contact General Abdol Rashid Dostam. On Saturday [22 Jan], Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali spent a hectic day at the Foreign Office.

Asif remained in consultation with Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan and other high-ranking officials of the Foreign Office.

Informed sources say that Pakistan government was considering calling a regional peace conference. Besides this the government was actively considering to ask all factions presently in Afghan government to resign from their offices and handover power to a caretaker council.

After this, it is proposed that faction leaders General Rashid Dostam, General Ismail, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Golboddin Hekmatyar, Mowlawi Nabi Mohammadi, Mowlawi Yunes Khales, Prof. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani should negotiate a settlement in Kabul.

These should be assisted by Rabita Alma-e Eslami Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran and other middle East countries, it has been proposed.

### Bhutto at Kashmir Meeting; Strike Called 5 Feb

*BK2301144294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Jan 94*

[Text] Addressing the Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir in Islamabad today, the prime minister assured her government's every assistance in the observance of the strike on 5th February to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. The chairman of the committee, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, presided over the meeting which was attended by Ms. Benazir Bhutto. The committee discussed and approved the action plan for the observance of the country-wide strike.

Referring to the secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India, the prime minister said from Pakistan's point of view, the talks have been a major success because India for the first time agreed to discuss the Kashmir issue as a separate agenda item of Pakistan-India parleys. By agreeing to our demand, India has also accepted the fact that the Kashmiri people are party to the issue which needed to be solved in accordance with their wishes. The prime minister said the talks failed to make any headway due to Indian intransigence. We had asked India to take several steps to reduce repression. India failed to do so, leaving no option for Pakistan but to go to the human rights commission in Geneva with a view to mobilizing international community to pressurize India to improve the human rights situation in Kashmir.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto regretted the dualism of the United Nations in implementation of its resolutions. She said Pakistan had supported UN resolutions on the Gulf war and Somalia to strengthen the United Nations' role. The prime minister said the issue of Kashmir continues to be on the United Nations' agenda. There should be one law for all, she said and emphasized that if the UN resolutions could be applicable elsewhere in the world, they should also be applied in the case of the Kashmiri people.

Speaking on the occasion, the chairman of the Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said participation of the prime minister in the meeting reflects the importance the government attaches to the cause of Kashmir.

### Further on Bhutto Remarks on Kashmir

*BK2401043194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jan 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto will address the nation this evening. She will take the nation into her confidence on national issues and inform it of the steps the government is taking on behalf of Kashmir. The prime minister's speech will be broadcast on TV and radio at 1430 GMT. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad last evening, the prime minister stated categorically that the government will fully support the strike called by the National Assembly's Kashmir Committee on 5 February to protest the atrocities against the Kashmiris in the occupied territory. She said that the strike call will be considered an appeal by all the parties because the appeal has been made by the Kashmir Committee, which is comprised of both ruling and opposition members of parliament. She said that her government has decided to raise the Kashmir issue at the UN human rights organization so as to secure world support for the early implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan has never refused to hold talks with India for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue. However, she added, that talks cannot be held in a situation in which Kashmiris are being oppressed and supressed by Indian forces. She asked how the talks can be held in a situation in which arrested Kashmiri leaders have not been released and the siege of the Hazratbal shrine is still continuing.

The prime minister said that 600,000 Indian forces are deployed in occupied Kashmir, which means one soldier is deployed for every four Kashmiris. Such a situation cannot be helpful for a purposeful dialogue. She said that the Indian Government should take steps to reduce atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

Noting the seriousness of the Kashmir problem, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the issue is linked to future global peace. Political stability in the region also depends on the cessation of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. She urged the United Nations and other world bodies to consider the Kashmir issue as a human rights issue. The prime minister said that it would be unjust if the UN resolutions were not implemented. The prime minister said that Pakistan has always supported the UN resolutions, including those on Kuwait, Somalia, and Bosnia. Pakistan hopes that other countries will support it on the Kashmir issue.

Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad, Pakistan People's Party [PPP] secretary general, has said that his party has decided to launch a massive campaign to apprise the people of the importance of the rights of Kashmiris and the government's policies. In a statement in Lahore yesterday, he said that the PPP will hold seminars and rallies to focus light on the present situation in occupied Kashmir and to draw international attention to the Kashmiri brethren. He said that the government has a clear and concrete policy on Kashmir.

## Delhi Finds Moscow Letter on Kashmir 'Disturbing'

*BK2301092394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Jan 94 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad—The Foreign Office on Saturday [22 Jan] reacted with caution to reports that "signals were emanating from Moscow regarding its stand on Kashmir which were quite disturbing for the Indian government."

A senior official commented: "We are checking the report which is based on the contents of a confidential letter from President Boris Yeltsin to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. We have contacted our High Commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Riaz Khokar and, in a couple of days, we should be in a position to give a formal reply."

The official added that he was surprised that such a confidential letter between two heads of state could have found its way into a newspaper article. The view in the Foreign Office is that if the report is true then the letter may have been sent to New Delhi before the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries were held early this month.

According to the report in the Indian press which was prominently displayed in the media here, Russia has expressed its concern over grave violations of human rights and asked New Delhi to solve the Kashmir problem in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Earlier when Boris Yeltsin had visited India, he had reportedly spoken of Occupied Kashmir as part of India which had disturbed Islamabad. It was only after a clarification from Moscow that Islamabad announced that there was nothing new in Moscow's policy on Occupied Kashmir.

One view which prevailed in the Foreign Office was that recently the United States and Russia have shown similarity of views on many issues. "Both US and Russia want India and Pakistan to continue dialogue and both (in the past) have approached the two neighbours to come to the negotiating table," said the official. "But what we cannot tell right now is whether there is really a qualitative change."

Earlier, a senior US official Robin Raphael had visited Moscow after a visit to Islamabad and the growing US concerns in the region were a topic of discussions. Later, during Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow recently a joint statement spoke of peace in the region.

Before waiting for any formal reply from the government, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in a press release has hoped that the Russian advice would convince India to stop its reign of terror. While applauding the Russian stance on Kashmir, the statement said that the change was due to advent of democracy in Russia which resulted in this human and conviction-oriented stand.

Meanwhile, the official at the Foreign Office said that there was some indication that the six non-papers that India had promised to send to Pakistan would arrive here sooner than expected. "Earlier, the Indian Foreign Office had said that they would send them after nearly four months," commented the official.

The Foreign Office says that New Delhi had to do so because Islamabad had seized the initiative and sent them two non-papers.

## Russia Invites Air Force To Evaluate Jets

*BK2201132294 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 22 Jan 94 p 1*

[Excerpt] Islamabad—While the question of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan Air Force is still in doldrums, the Russian government has offered to Pakistan the sale of SU-27, and MiG-29 planes which they claim are equivalent if not superior to the American jet fighters, well informed official sources told PAKISTAN OBSERVER here Friday [21 Jan].

The Russian manufacturers, [words indistinct] team of Air Force experts and navigators to visit Russia to evaluate, conduct flying tests and examine the battle worthiness of the aircraft offered to Pakistan. The Russian authorities have asked that the Evaluation Team of the Air Force should visit their country between January 15 to February 15.

It is believed that the Air Force has mentioned that SU-27 and the MiG-29 aircraft must be equipped with air-to-air missiles, air defence system inclusive of radars, both high-powered and low-looking, and air defence weapons.

The invitation from the Russian government which indicates their willingness to provide these sensitive aircraft is indeed a breakthrough in the relations between Pakistan and Russia, the sources said.

It would be worthwhile to state the Indian government had an agreement with the former Soviet Union restraining the latter from supplying any defence equipment to Pakistan. After the dismemberment to the Soviet Union this covenant continued to be in operation. The Pakistan Foreign Office had been making hectic efforts to run a new leaf in the relations between Pakistan and Russia. The recent intimation from Russia is indeed a reflection of the fact that the snow has melted.

Although nothing can be said for certain but it is believed that Pakistan Air Force will shortly select its team of experts to proceed to Russia to evaluate the aircraft. The latest negotiations would [words indistinct] of F-16 aircraft but also the offer by France and Sweden.

What is interesting to note in this connection is that the Russian offer includes technology and training offer guaranteed supply of spares and accessories together with maintenance of the aircraft.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is visiting Moscow this year and it is expected that before her departure the homework on this subject will be completed. [passage omitted]

## Daily Urges Arab Mojahedin To Leave

*BK2301123794 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 22 Jan 94 p 10*

[Editorials: "Arab Nationals Living in Pakistan"]

[Text] Mustafa Hanafi, the Egyptian ambassador to Pakistan, has said in an interview that his government has formally asked Pakistan to arrest and extradite 10 persons who have been involved in subversive and terrorist activities in Egypt. These persons include an Egyptian named (Muhammad Mustari) who was involved in an attack on the Egyptian prime minister.

During the Afghan holy war, youths of several Arab countries had fought, along with the Afghan mojahedin, against the Soviet Union and the Communist Afghan forces and the United States had been providing them arms. However, after the end of the Afghan holy war, there was no justification for those Arab nationals to overstay in Pakistan and the Pakistan Government was duty-bound to send them back to their homelands under an appropriate action plan. The Pakistani nation recognizes the services of these Arab mojahedin, but the Pakistan Government cannot provide any support and assistance for the struggle they wish to launch in their respective countries, nor would the people of Pakistan like to see Pakistani soil being used for their respective political battles. They create problems for us and defame Pakistan in the international community. Therefore, these Arab nationals can be requested not to create problems and difficulties for us and leave for their respective homelands immediately. If these people have any differences with the governments of their respective countries, Pakistan is not at all interested in them nor is it our problem. The Pakistan government ought to say the same thing to the Arab governments that we had neither invited their nationals nor are we providing them shelter. In view of the situation that has developed along our northwestern border, it would be only hypothetical to say that these Arab nationals are still staying in Peshawar. They may be living under the umbrella of any Afghan organization, but Pakistan is being held accountable for them. We should, therefore, deal with this entire problem very cautiously.

## Wahhabis Blamed for Punjab Mosque Attack

*LD2101221294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] As a result of an attack by armed men on a gathering of Shiite Friday [21 Jan] worshippers in Pakistan's Punjab Province, at least 20 worshippers were killed or injured. Following the attack, the leader of Pakistan's [Shiite] Ja'fari movement issued a statement condemning the attack and declaring three days of public mourning. Our colleague Khameneh reports from Pakistan:

[Khameneh] As a result of an attack by armed men on a gathering of Shiite Friday worshippers in Pakistan's Punjab Province, at least 20 worshippers were martyred or injured. In the course of the attack, four armed men, who were riding on two motorcycles, threw a grenade at a crowd of worshippers in a mosque in the Mozafargar region and opened fire using Kalashnikovs. As a result, five of the worshippers were killed and at least 15 severely injured.

Pakistan's Ja'fari movement issued a statement tonight, condemning this crime and declaring three days of public mourning to honor the memory of those martyred.

Allameh Seyyed Sajed Ali Naqavi, the leader of Pakistan's Shiites, also issued a statement severely condemning the savage attack and describing it as an act of terrorism perpetrated by sectarian elements. In the statement, the leader of Pakistan's Ja'fari movement described the Wahhabi association known as the Sahabah Corps as the main element behind fanning sectarian disputes in that country and warned that lack of due care and the lack of a rapid response by the government to the elements behind such crimes may evoke a strong reaction from Pakistan's Shiite community. [passage omitted]

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